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CIS

RELIEF OF SEVEN SOVIET PENTECOSTALS RESIDING IN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 312

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FOR THE RELIEF OF SEVEN SOVIET PENTECOSTALS RESIDING IN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1981

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:05 a.m., in room 357, the Capitol, Hon. Alan K. Simpson (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senator Simpson.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ALAN K. SIMPSON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WYOMING, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY

Senator SIMPSON. On June 27, 1978, nearly 3½ years ago, seven members of the Vashchenko family and the Chmykhalov family from Siberia entered the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. When these seven received word that an eighth member of their group, John Vashchenko who was stopped by the Soviets at the Embassy entrance had been beaten, they asked the U.S. Embassy for asylum, and they have remained in the Embassy to this day.

Despite efforts of the State Department, despite an outpouring of concern from the United States and around the world, and despite the provisions of the Helsinki accords, which the Soviets have signed, the Soviet Government has not agreed to allow the "Siberian Seven" to emigrate from Russia.

Senate bill 312 has been introduced by Senator Levin and many cosponsors in the Senate, a bill which would grant permanent resident alien status to the seven members Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families living in the Embassy, and which bill would further provide that the seven would be considered to be physically present and residing in the United States since June 27, 1978, the day they entered the Embassy compound.

The measure has been introduced to achieve the goal of the emigration of the "Siberian Seven" from the Soviet Union. In my capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy, and at various requests from the cosponsors and from persons throughout the country, it was determined to hold a hearing to see where we are on this issue.

In the hearing this morning, we shall hear testimony concerning the effectiveness or the hoped effectiveness of Senate bill 312 in achieving that goal, and whether it is in the best interest of these persons and this country that this take place.

Hopefully, we will have a balanced presentation of that, and try to hear what is really best in this unavoidably highly emotional type of situation, but I have found that there are few who are unemotional in immigration and refugee policy matters.

[Text of S. 312 follows:]

II

97th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 312

For the relief of Maria and Timofei Chmykhalov, and for Lilia, Peter, Liubov, Lidia, and Augustina Vashchenko.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 29 (legislative day, January 5), 1981

Mr. Levin (for himself, Mr. Boren, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Jepsen, Mr. Bumpers, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Baucus, Mr. Bentsen, Mr. Biden, Mr. Boschwitz, Mr. Burdick, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Chafee, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Cranston, Mr. Danforth, Mr. DeConcini, Mr. Denton, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Durenberger, Mr. Eagleton, Mr. Garn, Mr. Goldwater, Mr. Gorton, Mr. Hayakawa, Mr. Heflin, Mr. Heinz, Mr. Helms, Mr. Hollings, Mr. Huddleston, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Inouye, Mrs. Kassebaum, Mr. Kasten, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Mathias, Mr. Matsunaga, Mr. Mattingly, Mr. McClure, Mr. Melcher, Mr. Metzenbaum, Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Nickles, Mr. Pressler, Mr. Proxmire, Mr. Pryor, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Riegle, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Tsongas, and Mr. Williams) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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A BILL

For the relief of Maria and Timofei Chmykhalov, and for Lilia, Peter, Liubov, Lidia, and Augustina Vashchenko.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. The Congress finds that—

★(Star Print)

(1) since 1962, thirteen members of the Vashchenko family and eleven members of the Chmykhalov family from Chernogorsk, Siberia have requested that they be released from Soviet citizenship and be permitted to receive exit visas so that they may leave the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics legally and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

(2) since June 27, 1978, seven members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families have resided in the United States Embassy in Moscow and have been living in accordance with United States laws.

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding any numerical limitations or any other provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act, for purposes of such Act, Maria and Timofei Chmykhalov, and Lilia, Peter, Liubov, Lidia, and Augustina Vashchenko shall be issued visas and admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fees. Upon the granting of permanent residence to such aliens as provided for in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by the required number during the current fiscal year or the fiscal year next following, the total number of immigrant visas and conditional entries which are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under paragraphs (1) through (8) of section 203(a) of such Act, or if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas and conditional entries which are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202 of such Act.

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act or any other provision of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Maria and Timofei Chymkhalov, and Lilia, Peter, Liubov, Lidia, and Augustina Vashchenko shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of June 27, 1978, and to have been physically present and residing therein continuously since such date.

Senator SIMPSON. So we will proceed with the agenda, and the witnesses. First we have a panel of Thomas Simons, Director of the Office of Soviet Union Affairs of the Department of State, and Doris Meissner, the Acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice. Later we will have the remarks of Senator Carl Levin, and Senator Roger Jepsen.

So if you would please proceed.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS W. SIMONS, JR., DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SOVIET UNION AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. SIMONS. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

It is a pleasure to be here, and to give some views for the State Department on this bill. It is a bill whose intention the administration applauds.

I am here. Assistant Secretary Eagleburger would have liked to have been here, but as you know he is in Europe following up on the President's speech yesterday and, therefore, asked me to fill in for him at this hearing on an issue which is important to us, and with which we are in full sympathy.

You have my testimony. I would just like to briefly summarize some of the main points of it.

Once again there can be no question of support. We do support the intention of the bill. The families are close to us. I have not served in Moscow since they were in the Embassy, but my colleagues here have.

We know them as heroic people, even saintly people who are bearing the burdens of an emotional situation with heroic fortitude, and we share with them the goal of having them leave the Soviet Union to live in a community of their choice where they feel they can exercise their beliefs and live together as families freely in a way that they cannot do in the Soviet Union, and in a way that they cannot do in the Embassy compound.

The problems that we have with the bill all concern the question of effectiveness. We are obliged to look at the effect of a bill like this, an American law, on the actual real world prospects of the families leaving the Embassy. I must say, I will say it here and it is in the testimony, that to the best of our judgment the effects of passage of this bill into law would be genuinely mixed.

On the one hand, it is certainly true that an expression of public support from the Senate, from the Congress of the United States for the plight of these families would have some beneficial effect. It would help their morale.

They are sorely tried. They are sustained by their faith in God, by their prayers, by their own solidarity, their feeling of solidarity within the Embassy and with their families in Chernogorsk. This bill would be an additional sustenance to them in the trial that they are now undergoing.

It also helps, in our experience, to have expressions of concern from the American public, from the American Congress, from the administration for their goal, the common objective of allowing them to leave the Soviet Union together.

Those two factors are positive factors about the bill. The difficulty arises for the State Department and the administration with other likely consequences of the bill, which I don't think the committee can ignore.

If only the first factors pertained, there would be no question of administration support for the bill, but there are these other factors, which I would like you to take into account.

First of all, the bill as written, providing legislation of physical presence in the United States for these people during their stay in the Embassy compound will be construed, we are confident, by the Soviet authorities as an exercise of U.S. legislative jurisdiction in Soviet territory.

The bill, as written, states that the people are living in the Embassy in accordance with U.S. law. It will be impossible for the Soviet authorities to consider that this is true. They are living in the Embassy compound in accordance with Soviet law, and a bill providing that they are physically present in the United States will be seen an extension of American jurisdiction into Soviet territory.

This will be unwelcome to them for a number of reasons. They will have, we think, problems of principle with it. I think the U.S. Government would have the same problems of principle over an extension of Soviet law into American territory. But there are also practical consequences that the Soviets will see with an intention of having these families emigrate direct from refuge in a foreign embassy out of the country.

The practical consequences, and I know from reading Senator Levin's testimony that it is not the intention to create a precedent with this law, but the effect from the Soviet point of view would indeed be to set a precedent. They cannot avoid the spectre, I think, of very many people being heartened by a precedent, and sitting in foreign embassies until they are allowed directly out of the country.

This is one problem having to do with the attitude of the Soviet authorities who control the decision to release the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs.

I think it is reasonable and rational to fear that the Soviet authorities will be obliged to demonstrate that they will not be subjected to pressure of this kind, an extension of U.S. legislation to their territory, and this would make them even more unwilling to envisage the kind of creative solutions we would like them to come up with for dealing with an admittedly complex problem.

Second, with regard to documentation, Ms. Meissner will speak to that, but it is currently possible to document members of either or both families for entry into the United States at this time. The bill would neither add nor subtract from that current situation. We can let them in as soon as the Soviets decide to release them.

Third, the question of physically present and residing in the United States carries with it, we fear, the implication that we have a concept of extraterritoriality for diplomatic missions in foreign countries. In fact, the United States does not accept extraterritoriality of diplomatic missions, nor as far as we are aware does any other country in the world.

It is, therefore, without legal foundation either for us or in this case for the Soviets, and once again we feel it would probably have a negative effect on the essential question, the willingness to release these people.

With regard to the question of physical presence, we would suggest that this could be taken care of by a revision of the text of the bill, which would provide that the time that the families have spent in the compound would be deducted from the time required for them to be naturalized once they had arrived in the United States. But this is something, depending on the committee's decision and deliberation, which can be discussed later between our two branches.

I would like to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by saying once again that we support the intention of the bill. President Reagan has been eloquent himself on this question, as Senator Levin pointed out in his previous testimony. He strongly supports their quest to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

We will continue to do everything possible to convince the Soviets, to encourage the Soviets to come up with solutions which they feel are acceptable to them. We have been in continuous touch with them. We continue to invite them to be creative with regard to the problem. They know, it is crystal clear to them that resolution of this problem will have a favorable effect on bilateral relations with the United States.

We have made it clear to the families, and the Soviets also know it, that they are free to remain in the refuge of the Embassy as long as necessary, until there is a resolution, and that we will try to make their lives there as comfortable as possible.

We applaud the generous, humanitarian concern shown by this bill. If we believed the bill could help on balance, because there are certain good things in it, achieve the common goal of getting them out, we would certainly support it, because the old Polish national slogan "For your freedom and ours" has no more vivid exemplar than the case of the Vashchenko and the Chmykhalov families.

At this point, we feel the balance in terms of effectiveness, the essential criterion of effectiveness is unfavorable.

We would like to work with the committee. We could conceive of a different kind of bill which makes absolutely clear the support of the Congress and of the American people for these families, for their plight, but whose operative portions perhaps, in terms of U.S. law, would center on the question of physical residency, and would be reconfigured to avoid the extraterritoriality implication in the present bill, and would refer only to what would happen to the families once they arrive in the United States, if they decided to request citizenship.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Prepared statement of Mr. Simons follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THOMAS W. SIMONS, JR.

Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of State's views on Senate Bill 312, which would grant permanent resident alien status to those members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families presently living in refuge in the American Embassy in Moscow.

The U.S. Government continues vigorously to seek the emigration of these two families, and their right, under the Helsinki accords, to seek freedom of religious expression and freedom of movement. The welfare and ultimate fate of the families is of deep professional and personal concern to the staff of our Embassy in Moscow and to this Administration. The State Department is firmly committed to helping the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs achieve their goal of emigrating from the Soviet Union and supports all reasonable initiatives that contribute to this end.

There are five members of the Vashchenko family now living in the Embassy - the father and mother and three of their daughters. Still another 10 children of the family live in the family's hometown of Chernogorsk in Siberia. There are also two members of the Chmykhalov family in the Embassy, the mother and her son. There are nine other members of the Chmykhalov family living in Chernogorsk.

As you know, this is a complex case. The Soviet Government has continued to insist that the question of the families' emigration will not be addressed until they return to their home in Chernogorsk and, with the rest of their families, apply to local administrative organs in compliance with Soviet law. The family members now living in the Embassy, quite understandably, refuse to leave the safety of the Embassy without the assurances of the Soviet Government that they will be permitted to emigrate.

Despite the diametrically opposed points of view held by the Soviet Government and the two families, we hope that in time a solution can be found, although it appears that in the near term chances for such a solution are remote. You may be sure that every conceivable step which might lead to a solution receives our sympathetic consideration.

It is clear that the overall purpose of United States' actions in this case should and must be to obtain the release from the Soviet Union of the members of the Chmykhalov and Vashchenko families. The criterion must be effectiveness: whether or not a proposed step is likely to help or hinder their release. In the context of our present relations, we feel that it is not in our or the families' best interest to undertake measures which may prejudice -- perhaps forever -- the already slender chances of the family members to gain permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

Thus, we believe that there are several aspects of this bill which should be examined carefully before a decision on it is rendered by Congress. Judged against the criterion of potential effectiveness, these aspects are genuinely mixed.

On the one hand, it is certainly true that the passage of S-312 could help raise the morale of the Pentecostal families and demonstrate in a concrete manner our concern for their fate. This is an important consideration. Raising the morale of these sorely tried people and registering American concern are useful aims.

At the same time, it is equally important to avoid steps which could, on balance, damage these families' already slim prospects for emigration. In our judgement there is reason to believe that this bill, if passed, will on balance have that effect. We must consider three factors.

First, Soviet practice in these and other cases strongly suggests that the Soviet Government resists and will continue to resist setting a precedent for allowing direct emigration of Soviet citizens from refuge in a foreign embassy. There is probably a basis for this position in Soviet law, but the practical consequences alone would almost certainly give the Soviet authorities pause.

Second, it is presently possible, under the terms of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Refugee Act of 1980, to document members of either or both families for entry into the United States. The proposed legislation is not required to accomplish this purpose. Passage of the legislation might in fact have an adverse effect on the principal objective, that is, the issuance of exit visas by the Soviet authorities. Again without being privy to all the reasons the Soviets may give themselves, I would like to suggest some of them.

The Soviet authorities would construe this bill as an exercise of U.S. legislative jurisdiction with respect to citizens of the Soviet Union residing within that country and thus interference in its internal affairs. They would not see it as a well-intended humanitarian act. Rather, they would see it as an attempt to extend U.S. law to Soviet territory. The reaction would almost certainly be highly negative, particularly if the bill received much publicity.

If they follow past practice, the Soviet authorities would be motivated to demonstrate to the Soviet citizenry and to the international community that the U.S. Government cannot unilaterally accord Soviet citizens some form of special status or protection under U.S. law. Such a demonstration would make it more rather than less difficult for them to envisage creative solutions to a complex problem.

Third, in our judgement section 3 of the proposed act, which provides that the Pentecostals will be considered to be physically present and residing in the United States since June 27, 1978, when they entered the Embassy compound is also likely on balance to hurt rather than help these families' prospects for emigration. By equating the time spent in the Embassy compound with time spent in the United States, the bill suggests reliance on the concept of extra-territoriality of diplomatic missions -- a concept without legal foundation and rejected by the United States and the international community.

Mr. Chairman, the people this bill seeks to assist are in a specific, real-life situation. In reality, the United States cannot, by unilaterally declaring these individuals to be "permanent residents" of the United States, alter the fact that they remain Soviet citizens, present in Soviet territory and fully subject to Soviet law. In this respect, the case of the Pentecostal families differs from those of other prominent human rights cases, such as the Skuodis, Stolar, and Kudirka cases, where there were and are strong prior claims to U.S. citizenship. We cannot, under general principles of international law or under any relevant international agreement, compel the Soviet Union to recognize any change in their status or to issue the requisite exit visas to permit their emigration to the United States.

With regard to this third consideration involving physical presence, the problem we see could largely be avoided if the bill were modified to provide for a shortening of the physical residency requirement, only after the Pentecostals have actually entered the United States and applied for naturalization. The amount of time to be deducted from the residency requirement would be equal to the time the Pentecostals spent in the Embassy compound. This approach is not without precedent, and would not imply the assertion of some "extra-territorial" principle.

Let me close by reaffirming the Department of State's commitment to the quest of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families to emigrate from the Soviet Union. We have done and will continue to do all possible to assist them in this cause. We have been in continuous touch with the Soviet authorities about these families since they sought refuge in our Embassy. We continue to invite the Soviets to discuss new ways to resolve what we recognize is an extraordinarily complex problem. They know that resolution would have a favorable effect on bilateral relations with the United States. Until a successful resolution can be found, we have made it clear to the families that they are free to remain in refuge in the Embassy, and we will try to make their lives there as comfortable as possible. We recognize that S-312 is motivated by a generous humanitarian concern for these families. If we believed it would help achieve our common goal -- resettlement in the community of their choice -- the bill would have our full support. Unfortunately, we believe that on balance it would hurt rather than help.

Senator SIMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Simons, that is very helpful.

Now please, Doris Meissner.

STATEMENT OF DORIS M. MEISSNER, ACTING COMMISSIONER, IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Ms. MEISSNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We, too, have a statement which we would like to enter into the record with your permission.

Senator SIMPSON. Without objection.

Ms. MEISSNER. I will summarize briefly by saying that the Justice Department also views the plight of these individuals with great sympathy. The State Department has capsulized the views of the administration very effectively, and we defer to them on this issue as the principal spokesperson for the Administration.

Thank you.

[Prepared statement of Ms. Meissner follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DORIS M. MEISSNER

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Subcommittee:

I am pleased to be here today to discuss the views of the Department of Justice on S. 312, for the relief of Maria and Timofei Chmykhalov, and for Lilia, Peter, Liubov, Lidia, and Augustina Vashchenko.

This bill grants permanent resident status to seven Russian Pentecostalist Christians who have sought shelter in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on June, 1978, and who have been residing there since that date.

According to information obtained from Olsa Hruby of the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights, which focuses on the circumstances of individuals in closed societies, and from Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Blumhagen, both the Chmykhalov and Vaschenko families were at the Embassy on June 27, 1978 in an attempt to secure immigrant visas to the United States. Prior to their entry onto embassy grounds the Soviet police arrested John Vaschenko. The others were able to get into the compound and have not left there since that date. The beneficiaries have attempted to receive exit visas to leave Russia since 1962. However, due to their religious beliefs as Christians, the Russian government refuses to allow them to leave. The beneficiaries are members of a fundamentalist Christian sect known as the Pentacostalists, whose particular way of practicing their religion in accordance with the dictates of their conscience has brought them into severe conflict with the law. They refused to register their religious congregation because they claim the conditions of registration violates their religious principles. The Chmykhalovs also refused to carry Soviet passports claiming that, as Christians, they are citizens of the Kingdom of God. Refusal to carry a Soviet passport as a means of identity is a crime under Soviet law and carries penalties ranging from a petty fine to imprisonment in a labor camp. During the last 20 years, the adult beneficiaries have been subjected to arrests and confinement for various amounts of time as a direct result of their religious practices. The beneficiaries seek to emigrate to the United States on grounds that they are unable to practice their religion freely in the Soviet Union. They insist that they will not leave the Embassy until the rest of their family are allowed to join them and they all are permitted t leave the Soviet Union.

Under the bill, the Chmykhalvos and Vashchenkos would be considered lawful permanent residents of the U.S. and continuously present in the United States as of June 27, 1978, the date they entered the Embassy. They would thus be eligible for citizenship five years from that date. The Reverend Cecil Williamson of Selma, Alabama, has volunteered to sponsor the Vashchenkos family. Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Blumhagen of Drake, North Dakota, have volunteered to sponsor the Chmykhalov family.

The Department of Justice views the plight of the Chmykhalvos and Vashchenkos with great sympathy and hopes for a satisfactory outcome. Obviously, the grant of seven permanent resident visas would have no impact on the Immigration and Naturalization Service. However, we defer to the Department of State as to whether S. 312 should be enacted. We believe that the Department of State can best determine the effect of S. 312, in view of the international scope of the situation and the fact that the families have taken refuge within a diplomatic mission of the United States.

Senator **Simpson**. That was very succinct.

I want to thank you for your participation here today, and also your great interest in participation in the various hearings that we have held in the recent days and months with regard to the entire picture of immigration and refugee policy in the United States.

I have some questions. Can you tell us, Mr. Simons, what the State Department is presently doing to obtain the safe release of the two families from the Embassy, and what they are doing to attempt to assure their free immigration from the Soviet Union. What are some of the typical things that are being done?

Mr. **Simons**. Mr. Chairman, the State Department continues to make clear to the Soviets at all levels, including very high levels, the specific interest of the administration in the emigration of these families. I am reluctant to go into the details of government-to-government communications in this forum. If the committee wishes, we would be happy to give details in closed session on this. But the Soviets are in no doubt at the highest levels of our interest in this.

Ambassador Kampelman, the chief of our delegation at the Conference on European Security, the review conference in Madrid, has also made clear the U.S. Government interest and is in contact with his Soviet counterpart about the case.

I think it would be hard for me to go further with regard to the details of the encouragement.

Senator **Simpson**. Within the limits of what is confidential or classified, what are some of the other diplomatic initiatives which are being considered which would facilitate the issuance of an exit permit or an exit visa to these people.

Mr. **Simons**. Diplomatic initiatives consist in encouragement of the Soviets to discover and discuss with us ways within the confines of their system and their views on this, to come up with a solution.

The Vashchenkos themselves, I think, although I haven't read the text, I understand wrote to Ambassador Hartman, our new Ambassador in Moscow, recently mentioning one variant of the many things that have been considered in the past, which would be to allow the members of the family who are now in Chernogorsk to depart, and then to go back to the members of the Embassy compound, to discover whether this would be the kind of assurance that they might need to go back to Chernogorsk and apply with the local emigration authorities as the Soviets insist that they must under Soviet law.

This would be an example of the kind of creativity that we would welcome from the Soviets.

Senator **Simpson**. Is it your testimony, as I perceive it, that if this measure were to pass that it might actually reduce the chances of the so called "Siberian Seven" to emigrate from the Soviet Union?

Mr. **Simons**. Since it is a judgment of the reaction of the Soviet authorities, and we do not live inside their heads, it is hard to give a clear and confident judgment.

Certainly, in some ways it would help, in the sense of bringing to their attention the widespread public support and the Government support for the release of the families, and it would boost their own morale. But, as I said, are there these other factors which I have mentioned, so our judgment is that on balance it would hurt rather than help.

Senator SIMPSON. I might ask Doris Meissner, do you feel that the passage of this bill would set a precedent with adverse consequences for the United States. If, so, what do you perceive to be the ways in which that would be adverse?

Ms. MEISSNER. We have not done a thorough review of whether or not there is any precedent for such an action, but we believe at the present time there is no precedent.

As was stated earlier in the State Department's testimony, the intent of this bill is that it not be a precedent-setting action, but that is very difficult to avoid.

I am sure that the language of the bill could be couched in unique terms, although it is very difficult for us to know how that might be used in the future in similar circumstances. I do think, as was stated earlier, that it would be difficult for the bill not to become precedent-setting at one level or another.

Senator SIMPSON. You have had long experience in our Federal Government in these areas, and it is interesting to me to hear your comments about precedent. Have we ever actually dealt, to your knowledge, with legislation granting permanent resident status—that is not a change of status, but a new status when there is no status at all to begin with—to foreign nationals who seek refuge in our embassies abroad, and can you cite previous instances, if you recall them, of long delays where persons have been living in or involved with an Embassy, yet have not actually left the confines of that facility?

Ms. MEISSNER. Not to my knowledge. As I said, we would be pleased to do some research on that. To our knowledge, we don't know of similar circumstances. We have had circumstances where people have taken refuge in our Embassies, or we have granted refugee status to people within their own countries and then brought them to the United States. But lawful permanent residence is not anything we have dealt with in the past.

Senator SIMPSON. Realizing the constraints upon confidentiality and classification, but are you able to refer to us any new or different avenues, or initiatives which might be explored in order to find a humanitarian solution to this vexatious problem?

Ms. MEISSNER. There is always, of course, the Attorney General's parole authority. That is a very flexible section in the law which can be used in a very discretionary fashion. But the basic problem remains whether or not the Soviet authorities choose to allow these people to emigrate, and that is the fundamental issue on which the discussion continues to turn.

It is not clear to me that the use of the parole authority, even though it certainly would be within the confines of American law, in any way overcomes the emigration problem.

Senator SIMPSON. Has such a request as we are making upon the Soviet Union in this situation, not a request, but if we would implement a law, has this ever been demanded or requested of the United States?

Ms. MEISSNER. Not to my knowledge.

Senator SIMPSON. Are you aware of that, Mr. Simons?

Mr. **Simons**. I am not aware of any, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Simpson**. Just a final question.

You stated, Mr. Simons, clearly so, I think, that these people were "free to remain there." How long will that feeling persist under the conditions in which they are living now?

Mr. **Simons**. Mr. Chairman, I am confident that it will persist as long as the problem persists and has not been brought to the rapid solution that we would like it to take.

There is no question that they are welcome in the Embassy, and can have refuge until the Soviets agree to release them.

Senator **Simpson**. I think there has been a previous fear that has given rise to the interest of us in the Congress that they would be turned out of the Embassy, and that was more than just conjecture, there was even some commentary at one time about that and, of course, that causes great concern.

Mr. **Simons**. I am new to this job, since August, but I can't imagine that happening.

Senator **Simpson**. I know that one of the things that is of concern from a legal standpoint is family reunification, which would be something that we would ordinarily be considering. Yet there are no immediate relatives of these families here to give rise to the real mission of any emigration policy, and that is family reunification. That is a difficult part of it, too.

Mr. **Simons**. It is also a difficulty on the Soviet side, Mr. Chairman, because as I understand Soviet practice, I cannot speak to Soviet law, the main ground for emigration which is recognized by the Soviet authorities is family reunification, which of course does not pertain in this case.

Senator **Simpson**. Let me just add one other dimension to the thorniness of it all.

I am aware that we are now erecting a new embassy in the Soviet Union. What will we do with these people when that embassy has been completed. Will not there be a requirement to seek the approval of the Soviet Union in moving those people to the new embassy compound? Where are we with that?

Mr. **Simons**. The embassy is very unlikely to be completed before 2½ or 3 years. We would certainly like the problem to be resolved well before then. I am not sure that it would be very helpful for me to speculate on what would happen when the embassy is completed, but I can say that the U.S. Government has no intention of abandoning these families.

Senator **Simpson**. I thank you both.

I am going to visit with the sponsor, Senator Levin, and with the cosponsors, to examine the prospect of a closed session so that we might review present initiatives, things that are actually being done through diplomatic and other channels which would facilitate the free emigration and the exit visa.

I think we will arrange that, since I see that you both feel limited and justifiably so, and that is what executive session efforts and closed sessions, even though they are rather repugnant to me in most cases, are for. Obviously, if you can go no further here, then obviously we must pursue that, I think, at some other convenient time.

I thank you both very much for your testimony. It was very helpful.

Now, if I may, I would like to present Senator Carl Levin of Michigan, who I have come to know as a colleague and companion here in the U.S. Senate, and a man who deeply believes in the things that he espouses, and certainly this has been a most extraordinarily vigorous pursuit by him in an issue which is repugnant to him in its present form. He feels deeply about the necessity to proceed and do something appropriate, and I understand that drive very much.

I welcome you to the subcommittee, and we appreciate having your comments, Senator Levin.

STATEMENT OF HON. CARL LEVIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Senator LEVIN. Senator Simpson, thank you very much for what you are doing, and for calling these hearings. I know that you share the same goal that I and the other cosponsors, and I hope every Member of the Senate have deep in our hearts.

Traditionally testimony of this kind, Mr. Chairman, begins with a series of thank yous directed at the committee, at my cosponsors—including Senators Jepsen and Boren who have done so much to keep this matter moving forward—and 62 other Senators, and those members of the public who have devoted themselves to freedom of the Chmykhalovs and the Vashchenkos.

While I have a sincere appreciation for the efforts that you have made, and the extraordinary efforts and devotion of those in this room, and thousands who can't be here, because the situation we address today is unique, I think I will break with the traditional introductory remarks.

I am afraid that the plight of the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs, and the fact that the State Department is continuously unwilling to initiate or support meaningful efforts to ameliorate it, also breaks with tradition, in this case, the traditional American love of freedom and the traditional American commitment to help the oppressed and the persecuted.

The committee is familiar with the facts surrounding this case. You know that for the past 3½ years, these two families, these seven people, have lived in a small room in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. You know what happened to some of the rest of the members of their family who tried to enter the Embassy with them, and the treatment by the Soviets of those members.

You know that when these seven entered the Embassy on June 27, 1978, they were driven by a desire for freedom and not by any conscious plan to seek asylum. They had been seeking freedom, seeking to leave Russia since 1961.

You know that forces beyond their control, but forces directly under the control of the Soviet Union, created a situation which precluded them from leaving. So there they sit in that single small room, and hope that somehow someone will come to their aid.

Normally, one might suspect that that someone would be the Government of the United States. But, in this case, that suspicion regrettably is wrong, as wrong as the policy the Government has adopted to deal with these families has been.

For 3½ years, our State Department has resisted efforts to improve the lot of these families. Initially, the State Department refused to protest the Soviet decision to restrict mail deliveries to the families. State has long refused to allow the families to engage in meaningful work within the Embassy compound. State refused to allow members of the press to interview members of the family unless the interviews were conducted outdoors, and on and on.

It wasn't until individual Members of this Congress and hundreds of private citizens became involved in this matter, and started to pressure the State Department that arrangements were gradually made, which made life a little more tolerable for the individuals involved.

Throughout that entire pressure process, State resisted. At every step they claimed that concessions in any of these areas would violate policy or make the ultimate release of these people more difficult to secure.

Well, some of our policies were changed little by little because of pressure, and the cautious don't shake the boat world of the State Department has not collapsed. And, while their release is no closer, it is certainly no further away because of these efforts, Mr. Chairman.

The State Department has made much of the kindness and consideration extended to the members of the families by individuals assigned to the Embassy, as well they should. As individuals, many members of our diplomatic mission have been extraordinarily humane. But as a diplomatic mission, we have been terribly inhumane and uncaring when faced with the reality of what these individual members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families have had to endure.

As one who, with Senator Boren, visited those families, I know we were struck by the hardships they have endured and the hardships they are still willing to endure in an effort to secure their freedom. But those hardships have not adequately impressed our State Department.

It seems at times as if they view these families as a hardship that the State Department must endure. They view them as an embarrassment to our Government rather than trying to embarrass and, yes, shame the Soviet Government into releasing them.

Their testimony this morning is typical of that approach. It is full of concern, but not of compassion. It if full of doubts, but not desire. It is full of detailed objections, but short of determination to see these people free.

Just take a look at the testimony. It speaks in ringing tones of their desire to see the quest for the right to emigrate affirmed. It promises that they will continue to explore new ways to resolve an extraordinarily complex problem. What are those new ways? They don't tell us. Are they the ways which have resulted in the emigration of only 10 Pentecostal families from the Soviet Union when over 30,000 members of that faith have made application? What has the State Department to offer?

I fear that one of the things they may offer us is an approach first tried in 1978 by then Ambassador Toon, requesting the families to return to Chernogorsk and, in return, promising a hollow gesture, that our Government will seek to secure Russian promises of their safety and Russian pledges to allow their emigration.

In fact, I am informed, Mr. Chairman, that Ambassador Hartman has, like Ambassador Toon, sought to strike just such a so-called bargain with the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs.

Even if these two families agreed to such an arrangement, something I would not recommend and something which I am told they have rejected, what kind of faith can we place in that Soviet pledge? They pledge at Helsinki to allow freedom of worship and travel, and the Russian treatment of the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs represents the culmination of that Russian pledge.

They pledged to free Isaac Elkowitz, a 13-year-old who took refuge in our Embassy after his parents were killed at the close of World War II, and when he decided to accept that pledge 5 years later, he left the Embassy and, as far as we know, left the world. We have not heard from him or of him for nearly 30 years. Broken Russian pledges are strewn across the Gulag, and break the hearts of the victims and their loved ones.

Representatives of the State Department have told my staff that they would not object to this bill if it was simply redrafted to be a sense of the Congress resolution. They don't object to the concept, just to the teeth, the legal force of this legislation. But it is precisely the legal force that is important in two ways.

First, it guarantees that these families can stay in the Embassy. Given the kinds of pressure the State Department has exerted on them in the past, I think that would be a significant accomplishment even if that was all this bill did. But I believe it does more than that, because second, it indicates to the Soviets just how seriously we take this issue.

None of the technical legal concerns expressed by the State Department are insurmountable. If the Soviets felt pressured by meaningful American actions, they could surmount them. I am more than willing to redraft this legislation with State's suggestion to make the permanent residency grant effective as of now rather than as of the date of their entry into the Embassy.

In fact, I am more than willing to redraft every line of the bill but one, the one that gives them status as residents in the United States because that one line assures the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs that we will guarantee to the best of our ability a number of rights under our Constitution and also guarantee the right to stay in the Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of State persists in believing that quiet negotiations and sense of the Senate resolutions will somehow, sometime, resolve the problem. They have not yet. Only concerted action of the kind endorsed by 65 Senators in this bill and continuing public pressure have any hope of moving the Soviet Government. Millions of Americans are hoping that we take this action.

I hope that we seize that. I suggest as well that we give hope to the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs. I know that their hopes are very much focused on this bill. They have told me, as they have told others, that they view this legislation as critical to their future, and I think this bill does help give them a future. It keeps their cause vivid and alive while it guarantees their physical security in our Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, in 1979 Ronald Reagan asked a simple question in one of his radio commentaries. He said then that "our wheat and technology can get into Russia—why can't the Vashchenko and the Chmykhalov families get out?" Today, our wheat and technology still get into the Soviet Union, but these two families still cannot get out.

Indeed, the State Department treats the matter as a problem for the State Department instead of a problem for the Soviets. To legions of Americans who want and pray for their freedom, the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs are a cause, for the State Department they are a burden. I suggest we do something to change that, and I hope this committee will agree that this bill gives us hope of doing just that.

If I may add just one personal note. I know that the chairman of this committee in particular is dedicated to doing that. While the bill raises a number of questions, I know, in the minds of many members of this committee, I believe deeply in my heart that the chairman and other members of the committee want these families free.

The depth of the feeling that I, and others such as Senator Jepsen who has joined us, have about this bill will be appreciated by the committee as also being a step in that direction.

I know that this committee joins very deeply in our efforts in trying to find ways to force their exit and to guarantee their status in our Embassy through putting pressure on the Russians.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[Prepared statement of Senator Levin follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR CARL LEVIN

Mr. Chairman, traditionally testimony of this kind begins with a series of "thank yous" directed at the Committee, my co-sponsors, including Senators Jepsen, Boren and 60 other Senators, and those members of the public who have devoted their attention to the issue being considered. While I have a sincere appreciation for the efforts you have made and the extraordinary efforts and devotion of those in this room and thousands who couldn't be here, because the situation we address today is unique, I think I ought to break with the traditional introductory remarks.

I'm afraid that the plight of the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs -- and the fact that the State Department is continuously unwilling to initiate or support meaningful efforts to ameliorate it -- also breaks with tradition; in this case, the traditional American love of freedom and the traditional American commitment to help the oppressed and persecuted.

This Committee is familiar with the facts surrounding this case. You know that, for the past three and a half years, these two families, these 7 people have lived in a single 12' x 15' room in the United States Embassy in Moscow. You know that, when they entered the Embassy on June 27, 1978, they were driven by a desire for freedom and not by any conscious plan to seek asylum. You know that forces beyond their control -- but forces directly under the control of the Soviet Union -- created a situation which precluded them from leaving. So there they sit, in that single small room, and hope that somehow someone will come to their aid.

Now normally one might suspect that that someone would be the Government of the United States. But, in this case, that suspicion would be wrong -- as wrong as the policy this government has adopted to deal with these families has been.

For three and a half years, our State Department has resisted attempts to improve the lot of these families. Initially, State refused to protest the Soviet decision to restrict mail deliveries to the families. State refused to allow the families to engage in meaningful work within the Embassy compound. State refused to allow members of the press to interview members of the family unless the interviews were conducted outdoors.

It wasn't until individual members of the Congress and hundreds of private citizens became involved in this case and started to pressure the State Department that arrangements were made which made life a little more tolerable for the individuals involved. Throughout that entire "pressure" process, State resisted. At every step they claimed that concessions in any of these areas would violate "policy" or make the "ultimate" release of these people more difficult to secure. Well, our policies were little by little changed, and the world did not collapse. And, while their release is no closer, it is certainly no further away.

The State Department has made much of the kindness and consideration extended to members of the families by individuals assigned to the Embassy, as well they should. As individuals, many members of our diplomatic mission have been extraordinarily humane. But, as a diplomatic mission, we have been terribly inhumane and uncaring when faced with the reality of what these individual members of the Vaschchenko and Chmykhalov families have had to endure.

As one who, with Senator Boren, visited the Embassy and the families, I know we were struck by the hardships they have endured and hardships they are still willing to endure in an effort to secure their freedom.

But those hardships do not seem to have impressed our State Department, It seems at times as if they view these families as a hardship that the State Department must endure. They view them as an embarassment to our government rather than trying to embarass and, yes, shame the Soviet government into releasing them.

Their testimony this morning is typical of their approach. It is full of concern, but not full of compassion, full of doubts but not desire, full of detailed objections and short of determination to see these people freed.

Let's take a look at that testimony. It speaks in ringing tones of their desire to see the quest for the right to emigrate affirmed. And it promises that they will continue to explore "new ways to resolve...an extraordinarily complex problem." But what are those new ways? They do not tell us. Are they the ways which have resulted in the emigration of only ten Pentacostal families from the Soviet Union when over 30,000 individual members of that faith have made application? What has the State Department to offer us?

I fear that one of the things they may offer us is an approach first tried in 1978 by then Ambassador Toon, requesting the families to return to Chernogorsk and, in return, promising that our government will seek to secure Russian promises of their safety and Russian pledges to allow their emigration.

In fact, I am informed that Ambassador Hartman has, like Ambassador Toon, sought to strike just such a so-called "bargain" with the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs. In light of this effort, what are we to make of the promise that the State Department has made this morning? How are we to evaluate their claim that they have "made it clear to the families that they are free to remain in refuge in the Embassy..."?

And even if these two families agreed to such an arrangement -- something I would not recommend and something which I am told they have rejected -- what kind of faith could we place in the Soviet pledge? They pledged at Helsinki to allow freedom of worship and travel. And the Russian treatment of the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs represents the culmination of that Russian pledge. They pledged to free Isaac Elkowitz, a 13-year-old who took refuge in our Embassy after his parents were killed at the close of World War II. And when he decided to accept that pledge 5 years later, he left the Embassy and, as far as we know, left the world. We have not heard from him, or of him, for nearly 30 years.

Representatives of the State Department have told my staff that they would not object to this bill if it was simply redrafted to be a Sense of the Congress Resolution. They don't object to the concept, just to the teeth, the legal force of this legislation. But it is precisely the legal force that interests me in two ways.

First, it guarantees that these families can stay in the Embassy. Given the kinds of pressure State has exerted on them in the past, I think that would be a significant accomplishment even if that was all this bill did.

But I believe it does more than that. Because secondly, it indicates to the Soviets just how seriously we take this issue. None of the technical legal concerns expressed by the State Department are insurmountable. And if the Soviets felt pressured by meaningful American actions, they could surmount them. I am more than willing to redraft this legislation in line with State's suggestion to make the permanent residency grant effective as of now rather than as of the date of their entry into the Embassy. In fact, I am more than willing to redraft every line of the bill but one, the one that gives them status as residents in the United States because that one line assures the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs that we will guarantee to the best of our ability a number of rights under our Constitution and also guarantee the right to stay in the Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of State persists in believing that quiet negotiations and Sense of the Senate Resolutions will -- somehow, sometime -- resolve this problem. They have not. Only concerted action of the kind endorsed by 65 Senators in this bill and continuing public pressure have any hope of moving the Soviet government. Millions of Americans are hoping that we take this action.

I suggest we seize that hope. I suggest as well that we give hope to the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs. I know that their hopes are very much focused on this bill. They have told me, as they have told others, that they view this legislation as critical to their futures. And I think this bill does help give them a future. It keeps their cause vivid and alive while it guarantess physical security in our Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, in 1979 Ronald Reagan asked a simple question in one of his radio commentaries. He said then that "our wheat and technology can get into Russia -- why can't the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families get out?" Today our wheat and technology still get into the Soviet Union -- but these two families still cannot get out. Indeed, the State Department treats the matter as a problem for the State Department instead of a problem for the Soviets. To legions of Americans who want and pray for their freedom, the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs are a cause, for the State Department they are a burden. I suggest we do something to change that. And I hope this Committee will agree that this bill gives us hope of doing just that.

Senator **Simpson**. Thank you very much, Senator Levin. It is indeed a correct appraisal of the chairman's feelings, and the feelings of the members of the committee, and I thank you very much.

I noted your comments about the possibility of a joint resolution, but if we were to go to that, the necessity that the line one that you refer to stay in.

Of course, we have heard the State Department and the Justice Department testify about the legal extraterritoriality provisions, and the diplomatic implications of the bill now as drafted, but you have indicated your willingness to redraft, and the committee will offer its assistance in any way if that is a possibility.

You and I, Senator Jepsen, and others, will confer about a closed session. I look forward to working with you. I know of your deep and very sincere interest in this situation.

Senator Jepsen, our good colleague, joins us now, another man who has a deep human response to this issue, just as Senator Carl Levin. He shares with him the depth of feeling on this issue.

I must inject a personal note that the three of us came to this body at the same time, perhaps we have a closer tie there. But I know of the sincerity of both of you on this issue, and I will appreciate hearing your testimony.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER W. JEPSEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA

Senator **Jepsen**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for this meeting, and I reinforce what our friend and colleague Senator Levin has said. I appreciate the deep and sincere feeling that you have for this issue, and like issues, and appearing before this committee is somewhat of a joy and a comfort for me.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to commend my distinguished colleague from Michigan, Senator Carl Levin, for the unwavering leadership that he has provided by introducing S. 312 and for calling international attention to the plight of two Russian families who have been victimized by the Soviet Government simply for acknowledging their religious beliefs.

June 27 of this year marked the beginning of the fourth year that the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families have been forced to seek asylum in the American Embassy in Russia.

What began as an effort to seek American assistance in emigrating from the Soviet Union on the grounds of religious persecution has culminated into a nightmare for seven individuals. They have been separated from other family members. Their living quarters consist of a 12 by 15 foot basement room of the American Embassy.

They daily realize that outside the confines of the American Embassy, their lives are in great jeopardy. What crime have they committed that in their country they are hounded like criminals? They have publicly expressed their belief in a living omnipotent God.

S. 312 would not guarantee the two families freedom. Only the Soviet Government could grant them permission to emigrate. It would, however, guarantee them protection under the U.S. Constitution while they continue to reside in the American Embassy and would insure that they would be accommodated as well as possible under present circumstances.

More importantly, however, this legislation would assert this administration's and this Congress' strong stand in support of the Helsinki accords which condemn religious persecution.

In a strong statement of support for the two families, President Reagan in 1979 stated that, "Detente is supposed to be a two-way street. Our wheat and technology can get into Russia—Why can't the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families get out?"

I can assure you, from recent conversations with the administration and indirectly with the President, that he has not changed his mind, he has not changed his thoughts. One of the subjects that comes up most often in the morning briefings, I was advised yesterday by a member of the White House staff, is this subject, and I think we will be hearing more about this shortly.

I am sorry I don't have something directly for this meeting, I had hoped to but we just did not get it totally developed.

In prepared testimony, State Department officials have stated that granting citizenship status to the families would "slender chances of the family members to gain permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union" alluding to the fact that such action would affect Soviet sensibilities.

It is obvious to me and to others in this room that the Soviet Union has shown little regard for Western sensibilities in their violation of treaties, in training terrorists, in financing Cubans in Angola, in their support of Libyan adventurism. If we are to worry about upsetting sensibilities, it should be the sensibilities of religious and freedom-loving people throughout the world that we ought to worry about.

To the individuals who are daily being persecuted for their religious beliefs, the United States is the symbol of the freedom they cherish. To many of these people, the United States is the hope that makes their lives a little more bearable, the inspiration that helps them continue their lonely struggle.

To not take a stand resolutely behind the families that have come to be known as the "Siberian Seven" would be to encourage forces of religious repression throughout the world to move against people of faith without fear of serious or sustained American protest.

At issue is not only the freedom of seven individuals, Mr. Chairman. As leaders of the free world, will America stand up and speak out against a violation of the most basic human right—the freedom of thought and of worship.

Mr. Chairman, Senate file 312 reflects the spirit and the will of the American people. Sixty-five Senators have cosponsored this legislation. As I mentioned, the President has publicly and privately expressed his concern and support for the "Siberian Seven."

If the State Department does not believe that this legislation provides a proper vehicle for remedying this situation, I highly suggest that they immediately propose alternative measures.

I not only speak for myself, because I heard Senator Levin indicate that he would be more than pleased to cooperate with the State Department to resolve this situation. The only thing we will not accept is to do nothing.

As the whole world watches, will America be intimidated? Will this great country stand idly by as the Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki accords are being violated?

Will we as Americans, who have procrastinated for over 3½ years, wait one more moment to publicly express our total support for the "Siberian Seven" and millions of other individuals who are being persecuted for their religious faith?

I think the answer to that is rather apparent this morning, no, we are not going to do that here in the U.S. Senate, and if I read the President and the administration correctly, we are not going to let that continue in a stalemate any longer either.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to testify this morning on what I hope you understand to be rather strong support of Senate file 312.

[Prepared statement of Senator Jepsen follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR ROGER W. JEPSEN

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE FROM MICHIGAN, SENATOR CARL LEVIN, FOR THE UNWAVERING LEADERSHIP THAT HE HAS PROVIDED BY INTRODUCING S. 312 AND FOR CALLING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF TWO RUSSIAN FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SIMPLY FOR ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. JUNE 27TH OF THIS YEAR MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE FOURTH YEAR THAT THE VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV FAMILIES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SEEK ASSYLUM IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN RUSSIA.

WHAT BEGAN AS AN EFFORT TO SEEK AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN EMIGRATING FROM THE SOVIET UNION ON THE GROUNDS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION HAS CULMINATED INTO A NIGHTMARE FOR 7 INDIVIDUALS. THEY HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS. THEIR LIVING QUARTERS CONSIST OF A 12 x 15 FOOT BASEMENT ROOM OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THEY DAILY REALIZE THAT OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, THEIR LIVES ARE IN GREAT JEOPARDY. WHAT CRIME HAVE THEY COMMITED THAT IN THEIR COUNTRY THEY ARE HOUNDED LIKE CRIMINALS? THEY HAVE PUBLICALLY EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEFS IN A LIVING, OMNIPOTENT GOD.

S. 312 WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THE TWO FAMILIES FREEDOM -- ONLY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT COULD GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, GUARANTEE THEM PROTECTION UNDER THE U. S. CONSTITUTION WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO RESIDE IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND WOULD INSURE THAT THEY WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED AS WELL AS POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, THIS LEGISLATION WOULD ASSERT THIS ADMINISTRATION'S AND THIS CONGRESS'S STRONG STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS WHICH CONDEMN RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.

IN A STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE TWO FAMILIES, IN 1979 THEN CANDIDATE REAGAN STATED THAT, "DETENTE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TWO-WAY STREET. OUR WHEAT AND TECHNOLOGY CAN GET INTO RUSSIA -- WHY CAN'T THE VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV FAMILIES GET OUT?"

I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS, THAT THE PRESIDENT REMAINS CONCERNED OVER THE PLIGHT OF THE CAPTIVE FAMILIES, AND THAT HE CONTINUES TO SUPPORT AMERICAN EFFORTS WHICH MIGHT SERVE TO ALLEVIATE THEIR PLIGHT.

IN PREPARED TESTIMONY, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT GRANTING CITIZENSHIP STATUS TO THE FAMILIES WOULD "SLENDER CHANCES OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS TO GAIN PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE FROM THE SOVIET UNION" ALLUDING TO THE FACT THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD AFFECT SOVIET SENSIBILITIES. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME AND OTHERS IN THIS ROOM THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS SHOWN LITTLE REGARD FOR WESTERN SENSITIVTIES IN THEIR VIOLATION OF TREATIES, IN TRAINING TERRORISTS, IN FINANCING CUBANS IN ANGOLA, IN THEIR SUPPORT OF LYBIAN ADVENTURISM. IF WE ARE TO WORRY ABOUT UPSETTING SENSIBILITIES, IT SHOULD BE THE SENSIBILITIES OF RELIGIOUS AND FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DAILY BEING PERSECUTED FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, THE UNITED STATES IS THE SYMBOL OF THE FREEDOM THEY CHERISH. TO MANY OF THESE PEOPLE THE UNITED STATES IS THE HOPE THAT MAKES THEIR LIVES A LITTLE MORE BEARABLE -- THE INSPIRATION THAT HELPS THEM CONTINUE THEIR LONELY STRUGGLE. TO NOT TAKE A STAND RESOLUTELY BEHIND THE FAMILIES THAT HAVE COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE "SIBERIAN SEVEN" WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE FORCES OF RELIGIOUS REPRESSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO MOVE AGAINST PEOPLE OF FAITH WITHOUT FEAR OF SERIOUS OR SUSTAINED AMERICAN PROTEST. AT ISSUE IS NOT ONLY THE FREEDOM OF 7 INDIVIDUALS. AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD, WILL AMERICA STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT AGAINST A VIOLATION OF THE MOST BASIC HUMAN RIGHT -- THE FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND OF WORSHIP.

MR. CHAIRMAN, S. 312 REFLECTS THE SPIRIT AND THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. 65 SENATORS HAVE COSPONSORED THIS LEGISLATION. AS I MENTIONED, THE PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICALLY AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR THE "SIBERIAN SEVEN."

IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS LEGISLATION SERVES AS A PROPER VEHICLE FOR REMEDYING THIS SITUATION, I HIGHLY SUGGEST THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES.

AS THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHES, WILL AMERICA BE INTIMIDATED? WILL THIS GREAT COUNTRY STAND IDLY BY AS THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HELSINKI ACCORDS ARE BEING VIOLATED? WILL WE AS AMERICANS, WHO HAVE PROCRASTINATED FOR OVER 3½ YEARS, WAIT ONE MORE MOMENT TO PUBLICALLY EXPRESS OUR TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THE SIBERIAN SEVEN AND MILLIONS OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BEING PERSECUTED FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS FAITH?

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY THIS MORNING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S. 312.

Senator **Simpson**. Indeed, I do understand that and the depth of it from you both. Your presentations, I think, are the very noblest expression of Judeo-Christian philosophy that is the engine that has produced the energy to make this country what it is. I very much appreciate your being here.

Thank you very much.

Senator **Levin**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Jepsen**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Simpson**. The next panel consists of Jane Drake, secretary for the Society of Americans for the Vashchenko Emigration; Blahoslav S. Hruby, executive director of Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies; and Kent Hill, assistant professor of history at the Seattle Pacific University.

Let me make a special note to indicate that Senator Heflin of Alabama very much wanted to be present this morning to lend his support to Senate bill 312, and introduce and present Jane Drake of Alabama to the chairman and to the subcommittee. Unfortunately, he has just advised me that his Senate duties have delayed him from being present this morning.

As an original cosponsor of this measure, he is a strong advocate of the legislation that we are considering today, and he is very sorry that he cannot be present to present Jane Drake to this subcommittee. He has followed the activities of this subcommittee very closely, I can tell you that from a personal expression, and he is disappointed that he is not able to make the introduction today.

With that will you please proceed, Ms. Drake, please.

STATEMENT OF JANE DRAKE, SECRETARY, SOCIETY OF AMERICANS FOR VASHCHENKO EMIGRATION AND CHMYKHALOVS FAMILIES PERSECUTION AND EMIGRATION ATTEMPTS OF VASHCHENKO SINCE 1962

Ms. **Drake**. Peter Vashchenko's battle to emigrate from the Soviet Union is a 20-year-old struggle. He started in 1962 originally, before there was an emigration movement in the Soviet Union. He wanted to do everything through the legal channels. Therefore, in 1962 he made his first visit to Moscow, to go to the Kremlin first, and then to the U.S. Embassy, to inquire about how he would go about emigrating from the Soviet Union.

His trip was unsuccessful. He was escorted back to Chernogorsk by the KGB, and 2 months later he was arrested and sentenced to prison for 3 years. But the hope of these two families did not stop with this arrest, and from 1962 until 1967 they tried over and over, always trying to go through the legal channels of the Soviet Union to emigrate.

Instead of being granted emigration, Peter Vashchenko spent 2 more years in a labor camp, and some time was spent in a psychiatric hospital. His wife, Augustina, was beaten severely, and was sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Their children were taken from them, sent to a home for reeducation in the doctrine of atheism, and spent a total of 8 years away from their parents. During some of this time, the parents did not know where their children were.

From the Congressional Record of 1977 concerning the implementation of the Helsinki accords, there is a reference to Peter Vashchenko on page 23, "Imprisonment in psychiatric hospitals. In 1968, they put Peter Vashchenko in psychiatric hospital No. 15 because he had applied to emigrate. Peter Vashchenko asked the doctor, 'What diagnosis will you write on the history of my illness?' The doctor answered, 'Normal people don't make applications for emigration.'"

Always the Soviet officials told the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs, "You have to have an invitation to emigrate." So in April of 1977, when they received through the international mail an invitation from Pastor Cecil Williamson of Selma, Ala., they were elated.

They went back to the Soviet officials, but this time, after being passed from office to office in Chernogorsk, they were told now that the invitation was a trick, and they now should go to the American Embassy to ask further advice from the Americans. I have in my testimony a letter from the Vashchenkos naming the Soviet officials, and the offices that they held, actually instructing them to go back to the American Embassy for help.

So Peter Vashchenko in 1977, and the Chmykhalov family, went back to Moscow, and on June 27, 1978, attempted to enter the American Embassy. Instead of being allowed to enter, even though they had a document from the Vice Consul and an invitation to emigrate, the Soviet soldiers who keep people out of our American Embassy, including Americans unless they have an American passport on them, did not allow the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs to enter the Embassy. They ran past the Soviets, but only seven of the eight made it to safety.

John Vashchenko was beaten severely, taken away by the KGB, and was tortured for 1 week. It was then that the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs decided to remain inside that Embassy to preserve their own lives, the life of John, and also the lives of their children back home in Chernogorsk. They never intended to take asylum in our Embassy. They never intended to stay in our Embassy, not even an hour. They only went with their invitations of emigration to find out what to do next.

Since July of 1978, I have been working on this case. I have dedicated the greater part of my life to it, and I have also become well aware of the deceitfulness of the Soviet Union.

I was asked by the U.S. State Department in January to formulate new invitations for the Vashchenko family because now the Soviet officials in Chernogorsk were telling us that the old invitations were out of date, and they had to have new invitations. At this time, the Chernogorsk Soviet officials of the emigration office were saying that they would process the children's papers if they only had these new invitations.

So I began to formulate these new invitations, which I did by the letter of the Soviet law. In the meantime, the Soviets in Chernogorsk were busy collecting money from the children to renounce the children's Soviet citizenship, which is one of the things that they must do in the process of their emigration. The children had to buy this, and now they are stateless persons. They are not Soviet citizens.

In the meantime, I have become aware of a Soviet trick. The needed invitations are impossible to get. Here they are. The last step in processing these invitations is that they must be sent to the Soviet Embassy in Washington to be authenticated, but the Soviets have returned them to us twice.

I have a tape of Cecil Williamson speaking with the Soviet official, and also a letter from the Soviet Embassy in which they have told us that they are not going to authenticate these invitations, and that the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs are an American problem.

On the one hand, you have the Soviets in Chernogorsk demanding the invitations, so that the children may emigrate, and on the other hand you have the Soviets in Washington refusing to authenticate the invitations. So it is a totally impossible situation.

Lately, Parade magazine has become very interested in covering this story. In October of this year, they took me to Moscow, and I was able to meet with the people that I have learned to love in the last 3 years. They are the bravest and most courageous people that I have ever met in my entire life.

As I sat in the basement with these people, they calmly told me that when the time came that they should have to leave the Embassy, possibly some of them are going to die, and the only person who was upset was me, because they are the bravest people that I have ever seen, and they were calm and resolved to doing this. But, they will not leave that Embassy without a price, and the price is the lives of their children in Chernogorsk. They will leave the Embassy if their children in Chernogorsk are allowed to emigrate.

As you see, I have made separate invitations for all of the family members, therefore, there is no reason why the children are not allowed to emigrate, except that the Soviets will not authenticate the invitations.

I discussed at length this bill with the family because I wanted to honestly find out what was their opinion of it, because this is the only chance in their entire life that they are free, and they should form their own destiny. They want this bill very much. They put all their hope in this bill. There are thousands of Americans who also want this bill.

I consider this case a singular and unique case. Peter Vashchenko's saga started 20 years ago in the new year 1962. The new year of 1982 is approaching. His emigration struggle will be a 20-year old story, and now it is time for us to stand with these people. I think S. 312 is one of the strongest, most determined statements by the people of the United States to the Soviet Government condemning their appalling mistreatment of human beings.

The Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families do not want to compromise with the Soviets. They want this bill, and I urge this committee to approve this bill on behalf of these families who have endured so much for so many years.

[Statement of Ms. Drake and additional material follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JANE DRAKE

In the Soviet Union it is against the law to teach your child about God in the home. It is against Soviet law to take your child to the registered state church before the age of 18. Atheism is taught in the schools and upon entering the Soviet Army, one must vow total allegiance to the atheistic state of the Soviet Union. Because of these conditions existing in the U.S.S.R., Peter Vashchenko in 1962 found it impossible to continue to live in the Soviet Union. It was in October of that year 1962 that Peter with a few members of his family made their first trip to Moscow to ask instructions from the Kremlin and the American Embassy on how a Soviet citizen might emigrate from the Soviet Union. Daughters, Lyuba, Lida, and Nadya were not among the group going to Moscow for at this time they had been taken from their parents and were being held against their will in a state boarding school. The 1962 trip was unsuccessful. Soviet militia barred their entrance to the American Embassy and the Kremlin gave them a KBG escort back to Chernogorsk. Because of this trip to Moscow, Peter Vashchenko was arrested and sentenced to two years in prison. Between 1962-1975 other trips were made to Moscow in attempts to obtain information on how to emigrate; a stay in the U. S. Embassy was never planned or intended. As a result of these trips to Moscow, Peter once again was arrested, sentenced for a short time to a psychiatric hospital, and to one year in a labor camp. There is a record of Peter's confinement in this psychiatric hospital in the Congressional Record on Hearings before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, ninety-fifth Congress, first session on implementation of the Helsinki Accords Vol. II, religious liberty and minority rights in the Soviet Union April 27 and 28, 1977. Allow me to read page 23 under "Imprisonment in Psychiatric Hospitals."

"In 1968, they put Peter Vashchenko in psychiatric hospital #15 because he had applied to emigrate. P. Vashchenko asked the doctor, "What diagnosis will you write on the history of my illness?" The doctor answered, "Normal people don't make applications for emigration."

Augustina (wife of Peter and mother of 13 children) also suffered because of the family's attempts to emigrate. In 1968, she was arrested and sentenced to 3 years in prison. Four of the Vashchenko daughters were again taken from their parents and sent to another state boarding school. Several of the Vashchenko children have spent more than 6 years each away from their home and parents in these state boarding homes for reeducation. Much of the time Peter and Augustina did not know the whereabouts of these daughters.

In 1975 Liliya Dimitrievna Dugina, Cherogorsk instructor on religious affairs and deputy of the city committee, told the Vashchenko family that their emigration had been granted and that they would possibly go abroad as early as May 1. She told the family to prepare to emigrate, asking if the children had clothes. Dugina told them, "You are American citizens and should turn to the American Embassy for everything." The Vashchenko family sold their life sustaining potatoes and waited. It was all a sham, possibly to cause the Vashchenkos to suffer an economic hardship since they had prepared to leave and had sold their potatoes.

Another tradegy occurred in 1975. Aran, the four month old adopted son of Lida, was taken by force by the KGB with Liliya Dugina's help from the Vashchenkos. Lida suffered a severe beating as well as her sister, Nadya, in the incident. Once again in order to obtain some word about Aran, the Vashchenko family went to Moscow. At that time, September, 1975, the American Embassy gave them immigration forms which they were to fill out as soon as they should receive an invitation to emigrate from abroad. American consul officers handed them a document to show the Soviet police at the gate and a telephone number to call if they were stopped. They were advised by the Americans to return if they had any problems. After they returned to Chernogorsk, Soviet officials told them that Aran was dead.

In 1977 Rev. Cecil Williamson of Selma, Alabama, sent an invitation to emigrate to the Vashchenko family. With this invitation the family went to the local Chernogorsk Ovir but with no results. Emigration was not denied but

at the same time procedures to process their papers were not begun. The Vashchenkos were passed from office to office finally ending in Krasnoyarsk, where they were told that the invitation was a trick. *
Therefore the Vashchenko family planned their last trip to Moscow, this time taking along a neighbor and her son, Maria Chmykhalov and Timofei. Once at the U. S. Embassy the Soviet soldiers barred their entrance. All eight of the party attempted to enter the Embassy. Seven succeeded, but young 16 year old John Vashchenko was grabbed by the Soviet soldiers and thrown to the cement. He was brutally beaten at the entrance of our Embassy and taken away to be tortured for a week by the Soviets. At the time of the beating the seven begged help for John but the consular officer answered that he could not complain to the police about their handling of a Soviet citizen. Nine days later the seven were able to talk with family in Chernogorsk and found out what had happened to John. In order to save their lives and those of their family members at home, they decided to remain in the U. S. Embassy until allowed to emigrate.

Official U. S. Embassy policy was less than helpful. For two months they sat on the divans in the consular waiting room and were fed by handouts from sympathetic embassy personnel. When Ambassador Toon realized that they were not going to tire and leave, he had them placed in a small room in the basement of the Embassy and formed a restricted list of those who could and could not have contact with the families. Correspondents could interview the families in the courtyard only, regardless of what kind of weather it was. The families were not allowed to attend church services held on the Embassy compound. Not until after much protest from the West were they allowed to go to these services. At one time the families were restricted from having any visitors for a 6 month period. This in itself would have demoralized the average person, but the families remained strong. One consular officer asked them more than once, "Which of you will have the courage to leave here first?" They were even told that they were not good parents by American officials.

On August 26, 1978, before the families had been placed in their basement room, they had been ordered to leave the Embassy. From page 251 of The Siberian Seven by John Pollock: "At 8:15 P.M. an Embassy couple who had become particularly friendly were ordered to leave by the Marine guard, who stated that they had no authority to be there. The political officer, accompanied by the consul, entered at 8:30 P.M., saying that instructions had come from Washington, and read out a statement. The ambassador, he added, had supposed the Siberians were honest people but they had turned out not to be, because they would not go. Their presence hindered their own cause and slowed the emigration of believers. The Seven must depart that very evening. 'And now quickly gather up your things and leave with God. I will accompany you to the gates.' "

"The Seven reacted in deepest distress, especially in the light of all that they had endured down the years, including mocking that "the Americans don't want you."

"We answered that we would not walk out with our own legs and that if they wanted us to leave the Embassy they would have to drag us out and turn us over to the Soviet authorities for extermination."

When Ambassador Watson replaced Ambassador Toon, in some ways conditions worsened. I submit a memo of Ambassador Watson's in which he again declares restrictions on visitation rights and forbids Embassy families to act as intermediaries passing communications and printed materials to and from the Pentecostalists.

Since July of 1978, I have spent the greater part of my life trying to obtain help for the Bashchenko and Chmykhalov families. Although Embassy policy has softened and now Moscow consular officer Kurt Strubel claims a change in tactics by allowing and encouraging news media coverage of this case, we of S.A.V.E. worked hard to get the story out in 1978, 1979 and 1980, while at

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* In an attached letter dated November 5, 1981, from the Vashchenko family to Ambassador Hartman, the Vashchenko family name the local Siberian Soviet officials who told them to go to the American Embassy to obtain help in emigrating.

the same time Bob Farrand of the U. S. State Department was stating that they did not want this to be a news media event. The restricted measures taken by the Embassy put us three years behind in our work. In January of 1979 several prominent senators were quote "reluctantly" persuaded by Ambassador Malcolm Toon not to see the families. It was in April of 1979, at the request of S.A.V.E. that two Alabama Congressmen took a strong stand and insisted on seeing the families. Congressman Shelby on returning home told S.A.V.E. that Ambassador Toon had taken him aside and asked him not to see the families. Congressman Shelby replied that he had to see the families and was permitted to do so. In an article which Congressman Shelby placed in the Selma Times-Journal on May 6, 1979, he called his visit with the families a "heart opener", he condemned the Embassy's treatment of the families, and suggested that this case called for extraordinary action at the highest reaches of our government. Shelby's article is submitted for evidence - "Embassy Inmates Endure Daily Abuse".

While conditions in the Embassy were not pleasant, Soviet officials in Chernogorsk were making life hard for the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov family members at home. The Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs had been denounced as traitors in the publication the "Chernogorsk Worker" and papers for the Vashchenkos' arrest upon their return home had already been filed in Chernogorsk. Peter's brother Grigory had been told by the OVIR in Nakhodka, "If you apply for emigration, we'll put you in prison. When your brother, Peter, comes back to file his application, we'll trap him. He won't go anywhere."

In 1977, the oldest Vashchenko son, Alexander (Sasha), had been sentenced to three years in a labor camp for refusal to take military oaths objectional to his faith and serve in the Soviet Army. During Sasha's term he has been near death on several occasions as a result of beatings and long periods of time spent in cold isolation cells without a life sustaining amount of food. Camp directors tried time and time again to force him to sign papers denouncing his family and agreeing not to emigrate. On his refusal, severe punishments were dealt out. In August 1980, Sasha was near death and without sufficient clothes. Senator Hatfield met with Soviet Embassy concerning Sasha's condition. At the same time I took clothes for Sasha to the Soviet Embassy. The Soviets refused the clothes. Senator Hatfield and I were instructed by the Soviet Embassy to send these clothes to Sasha through the international mail. I present this returned box of clothes from Siberia with Sasha's name, Alexander, marked unknown. Two boxes were sent. Sasha received neither. If the Vashchenkos should leave the Embassy, they will be lost forever and boxes sent to them will return to us marked "inconnu".

In January of 1981, the State Department asked me to prepare new invitations for the Vashchenkos because local Ovir officials had told the Vashchenko children that they would process their papers if they had new invitations. Meanwhile the Soviet officials have collected a sufficient sum of money from the Vashchenko children and accepted their papers for renunciation of Soviet citizenship. The children are now stateless persons and have once again begun the process of filing for emigration. On our part, we of S.A.V.E., completed the new invitations which were done correctly by the letter of the Soviet law and authenticated by the U. S. State Department. The last step in forming invitations after State Department authentication, was to have them authenticated by the Soviet Embassy and returned to us for mailing to the U.S.S.R. I submit as evidence a tape of a conversation between Rev. Cecil Williamson, President of S.A.V.E., and a Soviet consular officer in the Soviet Embassy in which the officer refuses to authenticate our invitations and claims that the families are an American problem, not a Soviet problem. Also, a letter is submitted for evidence from A. Chuplygin, vice consul of the Soviet Embassy, stating two reasons why the Soviets refuse to authenticate our invitations:

1. Only close relatives can invite persons from the U.S.S.R. for permanent residence abroad.

2. Above named persons are residing illegally in the U. S. Embassy. The procedure of emigration can begin only after their departure from the Embassy. The U. S. authorities are well informed about this position of the Soviet side.

If the Soviets should hold to number 1., then there should no longer be a reason for the State Department to suggest, advise, insist on a return trip to Chernogorsk by the seven Vashchenko and Chmykhalov family members in our Embassy.

Concerning number 2., we of S.A.V.E. should like to remind the Soviets of their illegal beating and torturing of John Vashchenko at the entrance of our Embassy. While Soviet officials are refusing to authenticate our new invitations of emigration, the Soviet Ovir officials in Chernogorsk are busy at work collecting money from the Vashchenko children (a fee to renounce their citizenship and begin emigration procedures). In May of 1981, chief of Chernogorsk Ovir, Romanova, went to the home of the Vashchenko children to discuss and give instructions on their emigration.

I will be the first to admit very happily that I was wrong if this does not end up being another Soviet trick. Now that the Soviets have gotten the children's money, which the children had to borrow, the Soviets can attempt to discourage and destroy the children's morale with their deceit.

In October of this year, Parade Magazine took me to Moscow, where I was able to meet in person the people that I have learned to love in the past three years. They are the bravest and purest human beings I have ever known. As they quietly told me that if and when they should have to leave the Embassy, that some of them will probably die, they were calm and resolved. I was the only one shaken. They are ready to give their lives, but not without a price. The price is the emigration of their children in Chernogorsk. *

I discussed at length bill S. 312 with the families in order to find out their true feelings about the bill. They want the bill very much. All their hopes lie with this bill. Thousands of Americans want the permanent residency bill S. 312 for the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families. Their case is unique and singular. Peter Vashchenko's saga began New Years 1962. 1982 is soon approaching. This New Year the Vashchenko struggle for emigration will be a 20 year old story. It is time to take a stand with these people. S. 312 is the strongest statement yet made to the Soviet government concerning their mistreatment of human beings. The Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs want no compromise with the Soviets. We of S.A.V.E. want what the families want. Please pass S. 312 out of this subcommittee.

Janie Drake

Jane Drake
Secretary of S.A.V.E.
Rt 1 Box 49-A
Pike Road, Alabama 36106

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* Please read attached letter dated November 5, 1981, from the Vashchenko family to Ambassador Hartman.

[From the Selma Times-Journal, May 1979]

EMBASSY INMATES ENDURE DAILY ABUSE

WASHINGTON.—Imagine living with six other people crammed in a 12-foot by 20-foot basement completely cut off from the outside world.

Imagine your mail opened, read, censored and sometimes not even delivered at all, while your own attempts to contact friends and relatives on the outside are denied.

Imagine yourself surrounded by hostile guards and having to endure their taunts and abuse daily, while each night your sleep is shattered by the sounds of their billyclubs beating on the windows and bars of your cell.

Life in a maximum security prison where only the most incorrigible of society are isolated?

No, those are the conditions two families of Pentecostal Christians have to endure in our own American Embassy in Moscow.

The seven people—five members of the Pyotr Vashchenko family and two of the Mariya Chmykhalov family—have been holed up in the Embassy since June, when they rushed past Soviet guards and sought asylum from the religious persecution that is part of the Russian way of life.

The Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs want to emigrate to the United States and have found friends in Selma, Alabama, where the Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church has offered to sponsor their resettlement here. But the Soviet Union, whose recent history of human rights violations is notorious, refuses to let the seven Christians out.

During my recent trip to Russia during the Congressional Easter recess, I had the opportunity to meet with the Christian dissidents in the Embassy and convey to them the hopes and prayers of those of us in the United States who are working for their release.

To say that the visit was an eye-opener would be an understatement—it was more a "heart opener" to see the faith and grace these Christians displayed under the most adverse of conditions. Their belief in God and hope for eventual freedom remains strong even though their immediate prospects for release are not good.

During my visit, the first the Christians have had from a Congressman, I presented them with a small Bible that was a gift from the Crescent Hill congregation, told them about the attempts by their friends in the United States to secure their release, and gave them a stack of newspaper clippings concerning their plight.

In return, they gave me a letter, addressed "Dear Friends," for delivery to all their unseen and unknown fellow Christians in the United States who are working in their behalf.

The letter said, in part:

"We saw that God heard your and our prayers. (The visit) has reassured us that God will continue to stand beside us in the future. May God bless you for the work you have done for God and us."

That work, of course, must continue.

After conferring with State Department officials in Washington and U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon and Embassy personnel in Moscow, I came to the conclusion that going through standard Soviet channels will probably be futile for the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs, even though Russian exist permits for religious dissidents are reaching an all-time high.

Soviet officials have been particularly stubborn in the case of the Christians in the American Embassy and I concluded that even if formal attempts for visas are continued, the chances are the Russians will only let a couple—if any—of them out.

Breaking up such close-knit families, united not only by blood, but by their tremendous faith, would, of course, be almost as bad as keeping them imprisoned in the Embassy indefinitely.

So it seems to me this case calls for extraordinary action at the highest reaches of our government.

Accordingly, I wrote President Jimmy Carter immediately upon my return and urged him to personally become involved in the attempts to get the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs—all of them—out of Russia and safely to the United States.

I told President Carter that such aid is the essence of his own fight for human rights around the world. I concluded by asking Carter, who is, as we all know, a deeply religious man himself, for his help in the name of Christian charity.

I also ask all Christians in the United States and elsewhere who are concerned by the plight of the Vashchenkos, Chmykhalovs and others like them in the Soviet Union to unite in the fight to free them from domination by this atheistic and totalitarian state.

Write your Congressmen and Senators, write President Carter and write Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. Tell them if there is no room for Christians in Russia, there is certainly room for them here.

MOSCOW, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES,
November 5, 1981.

TO AMBASSADOR HEARTMAN,
From VASHCHENKO FAMILY (PETER, AUGUSTINA, LIDIA, LILIA AND LIUBOV.)

DEAR MR. HEARTMAN: We are grateful to the American government for the hospitality that has been given to our family during the past three years and four months.

We were told by the Consulate of the Embassy that you, Mr. Heartman, are going to speak with the Soviet government on the highest level about permission to emigrate to the USA for our eleven (11) children who at this present time live in Chernogorsk. We thank you very much for your wish to help in the question of our emigration.

When we can be assured by means of a telephone call from our children together with our sponsor in America, Mrs. Janie Drake, that all children are in America and got there safely we would leave the Embassy with the assurance of the Soviet government that you will get from them as the Consulate told us. The assurance should consist of this: that the Soviets will not persecute us and will not punish us for our stay in the Embassy for these three years and four months but will reunite us with our children in America in the shortest time, a few days, in view of the serious and hard illnesses of my wife and our mother, Augustina, since our stay in the Embassy has not been our fault. Our family was sent here by the Soviet authorities, by the Executive of the Religious affairs of the region town of Krasnoirk, Mr. Bronevich, and by the chief of the Chernogorsk Committee, Mrs. G. Andrushchenko. Also a document to receive help for our emigration was given us by the Consuls of the Embassy in 1975.

We would be grateful to the Soviet government if they will follow their words as Mr. Bronevich and Mrs. Andrushchenko told us, that we should go to the American Embassy and ask them to accept our family for the permanent residence in the USA and if the American government would agrees the Soviets will not prevent us from emigrating from the USSR.

The emigration of our family would serve as a measure of trust between the two countries and a movement toward peace.

We would like to thank you again, Mr. Heartman, for your effort to help our family to leave the Soviet Union. We ask and hope to see you before your meeting with the Soviets.

Sincerely,

THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY.

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Crescent Hill Drive
SELMA, ALABAMA 36701

August 12, 1981

CECIL WILLIAMSON, JR.
MINISTER

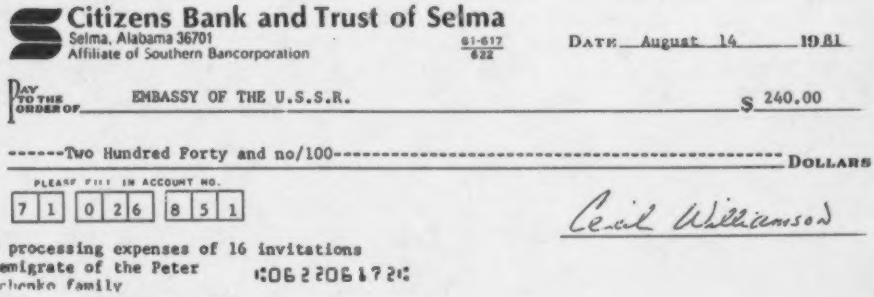
Yevgeniy S. Antiptov
Counselor and Consul
Embassy of the U.S.S.R.

Dear Counselor Antiptov:

Enclosed in this packet are invitations of emigration for all 16 members of the Peter Vashchenko family. Also enclosed is a check in the amount of $240 to cover processing expenses of these 16 invitations. After your authentication processing, it would be greatly appreciated if you would return these completed invitations and verifications to me as soon as possible.

Cecil Williamson
Cecil Williamson

cc. United States State Department - Jim Vanlaningham
President Ronald Reagan



Citizens Bank and Trust of Selma
Selma, Alabama 36701
Affiliate of Southern Bancorporation

61-617
622

DATE August 14 1981

PAY TO THE ORDER OF EMBASSY OF THE U.S.S.R. $ 240.00

------Two Hundred Forty and no/100-- DOLLARS

PLEASE FILL IN ACCOUNT NO.
7 1 0 2 6 8 5 1

Cecil Williamson

For processing expenses of 16 invitations to emigrate of the Peter Vaschenko family

:062206172:

EMBASSY OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
CONSULAR DIVISION
1825 PHELPS PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

(202) 332-1513
(9:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.)

Cecil Williamson, Jr.
Minister

Dear Mr. Williamson:

We are returning the enclosed invitations on our expence without legalization for two main reasons:

1. Only close relatives can invite persons from the USSR for permanant residence abroad .
2. Above named persons are residing illigally in the US-Embassy. The procedare of emigration can begin only after their depature from the Embassy. The US authorities are wellinformed about this position of the Soviet side.

Sincerely Yours,

A. Chuplygin

A. Chuplygin
Vice Consul

No. 81/09099

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twelfth day of June, 1981.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel Jr.
Acting Secretary of State

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

T[illegible]ficate is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/ 8100099

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born January 19, 1957
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Let. Khakasii dom no.
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

see back

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 19 81.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J. M. Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981
My commission expires February 13, 1985
Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow		
Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	Embassy of the United Stat
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957	19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234
2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk		
~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 24
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 18, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 191.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981. My Commission expires 2/13/85

Notary Public

No. 81/09099¹

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

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Acting Secretary of State

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

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8109099-1

STATE OF ALABAMA

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March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman

Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

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February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/ 8100099

4

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Avraam Petrovich Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born April 8, 1974
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Let. Khakasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / U.S.S.R. 662620

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

see back →

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J M Williams
My Commission expires March 3, 1984 J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981
My Commission expires Feb, 13, 1985
Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

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Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952

Embassy of the United Sta
c/o The Consular Section
19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Moscow
U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~ died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956
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Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957

Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. :
g. Chernogorsk 1
Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
U.S.S.R. 662620

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 19 81.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williamson
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981
[illegible] January 13, 1985

No. 81/09099-V

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Acting Secretary of State

By Norma J. Holton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

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8109099-2

STATE OF ALABAMA

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March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
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W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

8109099

y

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Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Sarra Petrovna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born October 9, 1970
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

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Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back

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SEAL

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My Commission expires March 3, 1984 J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

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Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

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Notary Public

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No. 81/09099

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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[illegible]

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OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
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with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

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J. M. Williams
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Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State Alabama
County DALLAS
City SELMA

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Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981
My Commission expires 2/13/85

Notary Public

No. 81/09099-1

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify *That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:*

[*Alabama**]

In testimony whereof, *I,* Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting *Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the* Acting *Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this* twelfth *day of* June, *19*81.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel Jr
Acting *Secretary of State.*

By Norma J. Horton
Acting *Authentication Officer Department of State.*

[illegible]

Thi[illegible]*ale is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.*

8109099-4

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State, that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the
State, at the Capitol, in the
City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman

Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS SONA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

8109099 -4

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Avel Petrovich Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born May 1, 1966
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Let. Khakasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorek 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during see back →
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of Feb. 1981
My Commission expires February 13, 1985

Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow		
Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	Embassy of the United Sta
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957	19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 7, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234
2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk		
~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no.
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yukov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williams
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981
My commission expires Feb 13, 1985

No. 81/09099

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twelfth day of June, 1981.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel, Jr
Acting Secretary of State.

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

Thi ate is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-5

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. Bill Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

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Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
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Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

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Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.

SEAL
My Commission expires Marche 3, 1984

JM Williams
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981
My Commission expires 2/13/85

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

8109099 5

I, the undersigned ____Cecil Williamson Jr.____
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my ____friend____ ____Dina Petrovna Vashchenko____
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born ____April 30, 1965____
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: ____Ul. 20 let. Khakasii dom no. 24____
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

____g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.____

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back →

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: ____100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.____
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ____ALABAMA____
Край

County ____DALLAS____
Район

City ____SELMA____
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____19th____ day of ____Feb.____, 19__81__.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of February, 1981
My commission expires 2/13/85

Notary Public

No. 81/09099

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify *That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:*

[Alabama]

In testimony whereof, *I,* Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting *Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the* Acting *Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this* twelfth *day of* June, *19*81.

FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel Jr.
Acting *Secretary of State.*

By Norma J. Horton
Acting *Authentication Officer, Department of State.*

This te is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-6

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman

Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA BURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/ 8109099 4

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Yakov Petrovich Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born March 9, 1962
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul 20 Let. Khakasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorsk 1/ Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

see back →

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALIAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J. M. Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981

My Commission expires February 13, 1985

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	Embassy of the United Stat
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957	19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, [illegible]~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 24
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Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb. 81.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williamson
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981. My Commission expires 2/13/85

No. 81/09099-1

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

[Alabama]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twelfth day of June, 1981.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel Jr.
Acting Secretary of State.

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

[illegible]

This [illegible] is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-7

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

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March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

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February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/ 8109099

1

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Ioan Petrovich Vashchenko
своего (relationship) (full name)
/степень родства/ /полное имя/

born February 28, 1961
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of ~~the~~ USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Khabasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back →

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

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по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии г.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

JM Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

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~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~	died
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Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
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Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Veshchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson

Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.

SEAL

MY Commission expires March 3, 1984

J. M. Williams

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 1981 My commission expires 2/13/85

No. 81/09099

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Walter J. Stoessel Jr
Acting Secretary of State.

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

Th ficate is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-8

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine.

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March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM
STATE OF ALABAMA

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

8109099 -8

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend . Alexander Petrovich Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born April 7, 1959
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Let. Khakasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back →

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	Embassy of the United Stat
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957	19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yukov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb. 19, 81.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

JM Williams
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

No. 81/09099

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

o all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Certify *That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:*

[*Alabama**]

In testimony whereof, *I,* Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting *Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the* Acting *Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this* twelfth *day of* June*, 19*81.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel Jr.
Acting *Secretary of State.*

By Nama J. Horton
Acting *Authentication Officer, Department of State.*

[illegible]

his C *is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.*

81090991

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the
State, at the Capitol, in the
City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

9

8109069

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Vera Petrovna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) (full name)
/степень родства/ /полное имя/

born April 25, 1956
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Let. Khakasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back →

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 7, 1952

Embassy of the United Stat
c/o The Consular Section
19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Moscow
U.S.S.R. 117234

---

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~ died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957

Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2
g. Chernogorsk 1
Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
U.S.S.R. 662620

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb, 19 81.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

No. 81/09099-10

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twelfth day of June, 1981.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel Jr
Acting Secretary of State.

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

[illegible]

This [illegible] is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-10

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981

Date

Don Siegelman

Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

6109089

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Nadezhda Petrovna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born August 7, 1954
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Ul. 20 Let. Khakasii dom no. 24
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:
g. Chernogorsk 1 / Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R. / 662620 U.S.S.R.

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

see back →

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время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb. 1981.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J. M. Williams
J. M. Williams
My Commission expires March 3, 1984
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My Commission expired Feb. 13, 1985.

Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	Embassy of the United St
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957	19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no.
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson

Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 19 81.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

No. 81/09099-11

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

o all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twelfth day of June, 1981.

[*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY]

Walter J. Stoessel Jr
Acting Secretary of State.

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

This le is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-11

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/ 8109099 -12

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Liubov Petrovna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born December 17, 1952
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Embassy of the United States
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo / Moscow / U.S.S.R. [redacted] 117234

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back →

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J M Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

~~Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of February, 1981.~~

My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

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Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1898~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
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Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

No. 81/09099-12

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

o all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Certify *That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:*

[*Alabama**]

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Walter J. Stoessel Jr
Acting *Secretary of State.*

By Norma J. Horton
Acting *Authentication Officer, Department of State.*

[illegible]

Th cate is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-12

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

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March 31, 1981

Date

Don Siegelman

Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

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February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

8109099

-13

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Lidia Petrovna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born March 6, 1951
(full date & place of birth)
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a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Embassy of the United States
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19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo / Moscow / U.S.S.R. [redacted] 117234

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see back →

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оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J. M. Williams
J. M. Williams

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expired Feb. 13, 1985.

Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	Embassy of the United State
Augustina Vasilyevna Vaschenko	March 25, 1929	c/o The Consular Section
Lilia Petrovna Vaschenko	July 16, 1957	19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Lidia Petrovna Vaschenko	March 6, 1951	Moscow
Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1898~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 24
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984.

J M Williams
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
[illegible] expires Feb. 13, 1985.

No. 81/09099-13

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify *That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:*

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, *I,* Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting *Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the* Acting *Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this* twelfth *day of* June *, 19*81.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel, Jr
Acting *Secretary of State.*

By Norma J. Horton
Acting *Authentication Officer, Department of State.*

[illegible] 5 USC 22, RS [illegible] of June 25, 194[illegible] Sec. 4 of Act [illegible] 5 USC 156; and [illegible] of June 27, 1953 [illegible] USC 1104, 1443, and [illegible]

This Certif ot valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-15

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

17

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

8109099

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend · Lilia Petrovna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born July 16, 1957
(full date & place of birth) /полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Embassy of the United States
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo / Moscow / U.S.S.R. [redacted] 117234

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

see back →

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J. M. Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

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Liubov Petrovna Vaschenko	December 17, 1952	U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, [illegible]~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
Avel Petrovich Vaschenko	May 1, 1966	
Pavel Petrovich Vaschenko	July 2, 1967	
Sarra Petrovna Vaschenko	October 9, 1970	
Avraam Petrovich Vaschenko	April 8, 1974	
Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 19 81

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J M Williams
Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
[illegible] expires Feb. 13, 1985.

ICHENKO FAMILY

No. 81/09099-44

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify *That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:*

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting *Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the* Acting *Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this* twelfth *day of* June, 19 81.

*FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXED DOCUMENT THE DEPARTMENT ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY

Walter J. Stoessel, Jr
Acting *Secretary of State.*

By Norma J. Horton
Acting *Authentication Officer, Department of State.*

[illegible]

Cer not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

8109099-14

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Don Siegelman, Secretary of State, of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the attestation of W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama, to the instrument hereto attached is in due form; that said Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama is a court of record of this State; that said W. A. "Bill" Kynard is the duly commissioned Clerk of said Circuit Court and that his signature appearing to said attestation is, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, genuine.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of State

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

I, W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that said J. M. Williams is a duly commissioned notary public in Dallas County and the State of Alabama in that his signature appearing to said attestation is genuine. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Circuit Court of Dallas County, Alabama, on this day.

February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/ 81.9099 -16

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Peter Pavlovich Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born October 30, 1926
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Embassy of the United States
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo / Moscow / U.S.S.R. [redacted] 117234

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

→ see back

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State / Штат ALABAMA

County / Район DALLAS

City / Город SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

J M Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985. ________, Notary Public

INVITATION TO EMIGRATE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS LISTED BELOW IN THE PETER VASHCHENKO FAMILY

1. Vaschenkos in U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Peter Pavlovich Vaschenko	October 30, 1926	
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Embassy of the United Sta
c/o The Consular Section
19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo
Moscow
U.S.S.R. 117234

2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 28, 1888~~	died
Nadezhda Petrovna Vaschenko	August 7, 1954	
Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	
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Liudmila Philipsova Vashchenko	January 13, 1957	

Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2
g. Chernogorsk 1
Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
U.S.S.R. 662620

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA

County DALLAS

City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb. 198

seal

J M Williams
Notary Public

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1985. [illegible] 13, 1985.

No. 81/09099-15

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the State of:

[Alabama*]

In testimony whereof, I, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twelfth day of June, 1981.

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Walter J. Stoessel Jr
Acting Secretary of State.

By Norma J. Horton
Acting Authentication Officer, Department of State.

*Th[illegible]ficate is not valid if it is removed or altered in any way whatsoever.

81-9099

-16

STATE OF ALABAMA

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March 31, 1981
Date

Don Siegelman
Don Siegelman Secretary of

OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY
SELMA, ALABAMA
36701

WILLIAM A. KYNARD
CLERK AND REGISTER

MISS EDNA DURDEN
DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTER

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February 19, 1981

W. A. "Bill" Kynard
W. A. "Bill" Kynard

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

81-9099

15

I, the undersigned Cecil Williamson Jr.
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my friend Augustina Vasilyevna Vashchenko
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born March 25, 1929
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: Embassy of the United States
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:
19 Ulitsa Chaikovskogo / Moscow / U.S.S.R. [redacted] 117234

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

see back →

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

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оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: 100 Cresent Hill Drive / Selma, Alabama 36701 / U.S.A.
по адресу:

Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ALABAMA
Штат

County DALLAS
Район

City SELMA
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

My Commission expires March 3, 1984

J. M. Williams
J. M. Williams
Notary Public /Нотариус/

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb. 1981
My commission expired Feb. 13, 1985.

Notary Public

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2. Vaschenkos at home in Chernogorsk

~~Pavel Antonovich Vaschenko~~	~~July 20, [illegible]~~	died
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Vera Petrovna Vaschenko	April 25, 1956	
Alexander Petrovich Vaschenko	April 7, 1959	Ul. 20 Let Khakasii dom no. 2/
Ioan Petrovich Vaschenko	February 28, 1961	g. Chernogorsk 1
Yakov Petrovich Vaschenko	March 9, 1962	Krasnoyarsky Kray R.S.F.S.R.
Dina Petrovna Vaschenko	April 30, 1965	U.S.S.R. 662620
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Cecil Williamson
Petitioner's signature

State ALABAMA
County DALLAS
City SELMA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 19 81

SEAL
My Commission expires March 3, 1984

Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Feb., 1981.
My commission expires Feb. 13, 1985.

INFORMATION SHEET

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXIT DOCUMENTATION FROM THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

General Information

By Soviet law persons desiring to leave the Soviet Union, either permanently or temporarily, must receive permission from Soviet authorities. This permission is granted in the form of exit documentation which for Soviet citizens consists of a Soviet foreign travel passport stamped with a Soviet exit visa.

The Soviet passport and Soviet exit visa are applied for at the Office of Visas and Registration (OVIR) where the person resides. If there is no OVIR in an individual's community, he may apply through his local militia (i.e., police) office. An invitation from a US sponsor is one of the documents which must be submitted to OVIR along with the application for passport and visa.

Invitation from U.S. Sponsor

The local OVIR requires a notarized letter of invitation from a person in the United States, usually a relative. This notarized letter is called a "vyzov." It is important to note that the "vyzov" is not a visa and it should not be confused with Soviet exit documentation (a USSR foreign passport stamped with a Soviet exit visa) or with a United States immigrant or visitor's visa.

Contents of "Vyzov"

Although there may be local variations in requirements, we understand the following are necessary:

1) The "vyzov" should be written in Russian as well as in English.

2) It should be from the sponsor in the United States to the person in the USSR. There should be one notarized copy of the "vyzov" for each Soviet applicant named in it.

3) The "vyzov" must state the relationship between

the sponsor and the Soviet resident and mention the sponsor's ability and willingness to assume full support of the alien, including housing and medical expenses.

Attached to this information sheet are two copies of a sample "vyzov" which may be used to comply with the requirements described above. The format is not an official Soviet Government form, but it follows a format which in our experience has been acceptable to the Soviet authorities.

Authentications of "Vyzov"

The "vyzov" MUST be notarized by a local notary public in the United States. On occasion applicants have been required by their local OVIR to obtain authentications of the original notarization. If authentication of the notarization is desired, the following steps should be taken:

2.

1) The Clerk of the Court of the County where the notary public is commissioned should certify the legal authority of the notary public. Then, the Secretary 3 of State of the State in which the document is executed should certify to the official status of the Clerk of the Court.

2) After having the "vyzov" certified by the State officials, the US sponsor should forward the document to the Authentication Officer, Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20520 for authentication under the seal of the Department of State. There is a fee of $3.00 for this authentication service, and a check or postal money order in the correct amount should be made payable to the "Department of State." After authentication, the "vyzov" will be returned to the US sponsor. (2)

3) The "vyzov" should then be sent by the US sponsor to the Consular Division, Soviet Embassy, 1609 Decatur Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. for final authentication. The Soviet Embassy charges a fee of ~~$9.00~~ for this service.
15.00

Transmission of "Vyzov" Directly to Soviet Applicant

After the authentications are completed, the "vyzov"

I... W. A. "Bill" Kynard, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dallas County in the State of Alabama should be transmitted by the sponsor directly by registered air mail to the relative in the USSR for his use in applying for his Soviet exit documentation.

The "Vyzov" is required by Soviet authorities, not by the U.S. Government. Neither the "vyzov" nor copies of it should be sent to the US Embassy in Moscow or to the Departmet of State.

Applicants in the USSR may correspond with the US Embassy as may be necessary, in Russian or English, making sure to keep the Embassy informed of the exact date and place that an application is made to the OVIR or is refused by the OVIR. The US Embassy's address for this purpose is Consular Section, US Embassy, Ulitsa Chaikovskovo 19/21, Moscow. The Embassy's telephone number is: 252-00-11.

Individuals in the USSR with Claim to American Citizenship

In cases involving Soviet citizens who may have a claim to American citizenship, it is recommended that they apply for permission to leave the Soviet Union in the same manner as described above. That is, they should make formal application for Soviet exit documentation and submit a "vyzov," preferably from a close relative in the United States. The reason for this is that even should the United States Government recognize the claim to American citizenship, Soviet authorities will almost certainly require the individual to depart the USSR using a Soviet passport with a Soviet exit visa.

Soviet citizens who believe they may have a claim to US citizenship should, however, visit the US Embassy Consular Section for a special consular interview. They should take with them their personal documents such as birth and marriage certificates, plus three passport-type photographs.

Soviet Authorities Grant or Deny Permission

Application for Soviet exit documentation may be a long and perhaps unsuccessful endeavor. We can give no assurance that exit documentation will be issued since this is a matter over which the Soviet authorities have exclusive jurisdiction.

If exit permission is denied, individuals may reapply six months after the date of refusal. They may also appeal refusal to various higher authorities.

If exit permission is granted by the Soviet authorities for travel to the United States, the individual will receive his Soviet passport valid for travel abroad and his exit visa from his local militia or OVIR office.

If exit permission to emigrate is granted, the applicant should immediately notify the American Embassy in Moscow that he has received Soviet exit permission, giving the Embassy his exact address and the date of expiration of his exit visa. The Embassy can then send by registered mail precise instructions to the prospective immigrant concerning the documents which will be required for an application for US immigration processing. The applicant need not visit the Embassy in Moscow until he receives a specific invitation from the Embassy to come in for final processing of his case.

If exit permission is granted for a temporary visit, the applicant need not notify the American Embassy in advance that he has received his Soviet exit visa, but only appear at the Embassy any working day (Monday through Friday other than US and Soviet holidays) with two photographs and the address of his US sponsor. No other documents are necessary. A visitor's visa is normally issued immediately to a qualified applicant.

Correspondence directed from the US to the American Embassy in Moscow should be addressed: Consular Section. American Embassy, Moscow, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. Air mail postage should be affixed to cover mailing from point of origin to Washington, D.C.

Department of State
Office of Soviet Union Affairs
November 1977

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ /ВЫЗОВ/

I, the undersigned ______________________________
Я, нижеподписавшийся (full name) /полное имя/

a citizen (permanent resident) of the United States of America
гражданин /постоянный житель/ Соединенных Штатов Америки, приглашаю

invite my ______________________________
своего (relationship) /степень родства/ (full name) /полное имя/

born ______________________________
(full date & place of birth)
/полная дата и место рождения/

a citizen of the USSR, now residing at: ______________________________
гражданина /гражданку/ СССР, ныне проживающего по адресу:

____

to visit (live permanently) with me in the United States.
к себе в гости /на постоянное жительство/ в Соединенные Штаты.

I am fully capable of supporting the above named person, providing
Я имею возможность материально обеспечить вышеуказанное лицо,

for any medical expenses, and guaranteeing living quarters during
оплатить любые медицинские расходы и гарантирую жилплощадь во

her (his) stay in the United States, where she (he) will reside
время пребывания в Соединенных Штатах, где будет проживать со мной

with me at: ______________________________
по адресу:

____
Petitioner's signature
Подпись просителя

State ______________
Штат

County ______________
Район

City ______________
Город

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ________ day of ________, 19__.
Подписано под присягой в моем присутствии

SEAL

____
Notary Public /Нотариус/

"SAVE"
Rt. I Box 49-A
Pike Road, Al.
36064 USA.

Moscow. Embassy of the USA
November I. I98I.

Dear Cecil, Janie and Babette,

We, the Vashchenko family, ask and trust you to intercede for the emigration of our family. We trust you to express the opinion of our family to the people and governments on the religion as well as political questions as they arise and about which we will inform you.

It is possible that our opinions sometimes will ber different from yours but we ask you to express our opinions as they are.

We thank you very much for your kindness, work, prayers and intercession for the emigration of our family that you were doing during the past 40 months.

We ask you please, continue to intercede before both governments, the American and Soviet, so that our whole family could come to your country.

May God bless and help you.

Respectfully. Yours,
Vashchenko.
The Vashchenko family.

PS. This letter of attorney from Nov. Ist I98I concerns to Rev. Cecil Williamson, Mrs. Janie Drake and Mrs. Babette Wampold who at the present time are leaders of the SAVE organization that located in Alabama, USA.and the address of which is: SAVE, Route I Box 49-A, Pike Road, Alabama. 36064 USA. Telephone: (205)-272-3208 or (205)-272-7349.

Senator **Simpson**. Thank you very much, Jane Drake.

Now please, we will hear from Blahoslav Hruby.

STATEMENT OF REV. AND MRS. BLAHOSLAV S. HRUBY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR, RESEARCH CENTER FOR RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CLOSED SOCIETIES

Mr. **Hruby**. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for inviting me to testify before this committee.

In our written testimony, Mrs. Hruby, at my side, and I attempted to outline some of the problems facing religious believers in the U.S.S.R. May I ask you to include the written text of our testimony in the record of this hearing.

Senator **Simpson**. Without objection.

Mr. **Hruby**. Even diligent study of official and underground materials, however, does not answer all questions about the actual situation of religion in the U.S.S.R. On the basis of estimates and extrapolations, the number of Soviet citizens practicing religion is set at more than 100 million, that is at least 10 times more than the membership of the Communist Party. Yet, the Communist Party holds all the power, and the believers have no representation in any of the Governmental or elective bodies.

We do not know a single practicing Christian, Jew, Moslem, or Buddhist serving in federal, state, provincial, or local offices, teaching in colleges and universities, or engaged in scientific research, and so on.

Atheism is an integral part of Marxist-Leninist ideology, and as such it is imposed on every citizen in the place of work, in the school, in the media, and even in private.

Standard methods of education in the spirit of communism practiced in Gulag Archipelago have not been abolished to this day. Our report mentions the case of an 83-year-old Adventist leader, Rev. Vladimir Shelkov, sentenced to 5 years of hard labor for purely religious activity.

There are other clergymen recently victimized by the Soviet system, above all Orthodox priests and laymen, and several Catholic priests murdered in Lithuania, where religious persecution is at its peak. The Soviet Government is trying to prevent the religious infection in Poland from spreading to the U.S.S.R.

Since 1962, Mrs. Hruby and I have followed the plight and the efforts to emigrate, which we document in our publication RCDA—Religion in Communist Dominated Areas. Unfortunately, it was very difficult to interest our public, media, and even our denominations in the Soviet Christian emigration movement.

Shortly after the arrival of seven members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, we took up their case and tried to find support for them, but it was not until Senator Carl Levin had visited them in their basement room in the Embassy that we found a man of stature, influence and generosity, who was willing to help not only in words, but also in deeds.

He addressed an appeal to Chairman Brezhnev requesting emigration permits for the Siberian Seven and their families. The letter was signed by 50 Senators, but the Soviet leader never answered. At that point, we suggested the possibility of a special bill, and Senator Levin graciously considered the idea, and authored a bill for the relief of the Chmykhalovs and Vashchenkos.

Soviet spokesmen declared that the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs are not their, Soviet, problem. They are an American problem. In a way, they are right. The Americans were unable to resolve the problem, only to prolong the status quo.

The Soviets enjoy watching the frustration of the Embassy officials and the suffering of the Siberian Seven. They keep their eye on them. About 200 Soviet nationals are employed by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and all of them must report to the KGB what they do, and what they see and hear in the compound.

Next door to the Siberian Seven is a barber shop and beauty parlor manned by Valentina, a Soviet woman reputed to be a colonel in the KGB. Her extracurricular activity is to make the life of the Siberian Seven as miserable as possible. She also keeps tabs on their visitors.

The Soviets are not interested in terminating the protracted misery of the two families in the near future. However, S. 312 can persuade them that it is counterproductive, as well as damaging to their image, to continue their callous game.

By now, millions of people throughout the world know about the "Siberian Seven." The defeat of this bill would mean a serious psychological blow not only to the Chmykhalovs and Vashchenkos, but to all of us who are trying to help them, and also to millions of believers on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

It would greatly hurt the credibility of the U.S. policy concerning the defense of religious freedom and human rights. By the same token, it would encourage the Communist governments to intensify repression of religious freedom and human rights.

The passage of S. 312 will not only improve the very precarious situation of the "Siberian Seven," but also strengthen the faith and hope of all persecuted, and demonstrate the determination of the Senate of the United States to defend and protect human rights wherever and whenever they are violated.

In this spirit, we ask you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, to endorse the bill. By doing so, you will vote for human rights and freedom of religion everywhere.

Thank you very much.

[Prepared statement of Rev. and Mrs. Hruby follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REV. & MRS. B. S. HRUBY

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy, ladies and gentlemen:

We consider it great honor and privilege to testify in support of bill S. 312 for the relief of members of the Chmykhalov and Vashchenko families, courageous Pentecostalist from Siberia, who have been living for more than three years in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

We are proud that the idea for this bill originated in our organization. As a matter of fact, we have been involved in the case of these believers long before their arrival in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow: since the early 1960's we publicized their persistent efforts to obtain permission for emigration from the USSR because of demonstrable religious persecution.

Documentation concerning the Christian emigration movement in the USSR was just one part of our work--compilation of records, processing, translating and publishing authentic documents -- from official sources and from underground or samizdat -- concerning the situation of human rights and religious freedom in the Communist countries. We do not focus on Evangelical Christians alone; we are equally concerned about the Jews, Catholics, Russian Orthodox, Moslems, Buddhists and other believers as well as nonbelievers persecuted for their convictions. Our interest in human rights is particularly keen because of our personal experience with Nazism, fascism and Communism. I myself have been three times a refugee and for that reason, I am grateful to God for having found freedom and home for myself and my family in this country.

Since 1962 I and my wife championed human rights and religious freedom in our publication RCDA-Religion in Communist Dominated Areas, published now under the auspices of the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies, Ltd. Thus, we promoted the case of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Andrei Sakharov, Rev. Georgi Vins, Anatoly Shcharansky, Ida Nudel, Father Gleb Yakunin, Alexander Ginzburg --to name just few of the best known dissidents in the USSR. However, we are working just as assiduously for religious and political dissidents in other totalitarian countries, particularly for individuals who are less known, less glamorous and less likely to attract international attention.

The objectives of our efforts are not always correctly understood. Many people believe that quiet diplomacy is far more efficient than publicity of violations of human rights; of course, those people have never been inmates of prisons, psychiatric hospitals and labor camps in Communist countries. The victims of persecution are less than enthusiastic about quiet diplomacy; they regard publicity in the West as their only hope for survival. Here I should like to point out the testimonies of Vladimir Bukovsky, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and others. We should remember the millions of Jews herded into gas chambers by the Nazis during World War II. They went silently and perished. The survivors, however, learned not to accept martyrdom without protest. Thus, shortly after Stalin's death the Jewish emigration movement was launched in Leningrad in 1958 and challenged Soviet anti-Semitism. The Christian emigration movement was organized along the same lines in early 1960's. The two efforts are parallel, not contradictory, and many of their participants cooperate. Their results, however, are most dissimilar.

Emigration of Soviet Jews is progressing steadily, despite many obstructions, problems, suffering and sacrifices, while Christian emigration from the USSR is practically nonexistent. An expert of the Department of State estimates that there are some 50,000 Soviet Evangelicals who have applied for exit from the USSR. To the best of our knowledge, less than ten (10) families emigrated since 1962. Even if ten times or hundred times as many were permitted to leave the USSR during those years, those numbers would still be insignificant.

One of those families, the Gorelkins, were permitted to emigrate to Canada about 2 years ago. Please note that Vasily Ivanovich Gorelkin was born in Harbin, China, and naturalized in Canada. In 1955 he came to visit his family in the USSR with the intention to spend there one month, but was detained against his will for 24 years. During that time he married and raised ten children. Prior to the Gorelkins' departure, one of their sons, Simon, married Ludmila Malamura who has been trying to join her husband in Canada since 1979. Her whole family in Tapa, Estonian Soviet

Socialist Republic, applied for exit visas and have been refused emigration on a number of occasions, despite the fact that at least in Ludmila's case it is a question of family reunification.

Soviet Office of Visa and Emigration (OVIR) frequently insists that only those individuals who have blood relatives in the West apply for exit visas. This regulation is not always considered; we have numerous examples among Jewish refuseniks (including Ida Nudel, the piano virtuoso Vladimir Feltsman and others) as well as among Soviet Christians. For instance, The wife of Peter Vashchenko's cousin, Gregory, has a sister and several other relatives residing in West Germany. The Gregory Vashchenkos have been petitioning for emigration for the past nine years. The OVIR fails to consider the fact that Olga Ludvigovna Vashchenko is ethnic German and thus, eligible for emigration. The overriding factor in their case is the fact that the Vashchenkos are Evangelical activists.

There are cases where blood relations are not required for exit permit. Here we should like to mention the family of Mr. and Mrs. Stanislav Zherdev, sculptors and Pentecostal believers. Slava Zherdev, one of the leaders of the Pentecostal emigration movement, decided to protest against religious discrimination by refusing to vote and by announcing hunger strike at the occasion of the Moscow Olympics in the summer of 1980. This action prompted the OVIR to issue the family permit to emigrate to Israel--although the Zherdevs have no kith nor kin outside the USSR. There was, however, Catch 22: the night before their scheduled departure Mrs. Zherdev's mother, a Communist fanatic, abducted the eldest of the Zherdev's seven children, 10-year old Sergey. The Soviet authorities, obviously aware of the plot, refused to locate the child.

The Zherdevs were faced with a dilemma: their passports listed seven children and without Sergey, the family would not be permitted to leave. On the other hand, if they stayed in the USSR, they would never get another chance to emigrate and in all probability, would never see Sergey again; moreover, they might be deprived of their parental rights to their other children. In their predicament they accepted the offer of a fellow Christian, Galina Ukhtomskaya, who let them take abroad her 10-year old son, Pavel, instead of Sergey. Thus, she jeopardized her future in order to enable Pavel to live in the free world. The switch went unnoticed at the airport and the Zherdevs safely reached Vienna and later Sweden.

Galina Ukhtomskaya held a press conference at which she explained the grounds for her decision and expressed her desire to emigrate with her older son, a victim of cerebral palsy. The attention and support of their friends in the West, including our Research Center, resulted in Mrs. Ukhtomskaya's emigration. She and her two sons are now living in Sweden. Unfortunately, young Sergey Zherdev is still in the USSR, subjected to intensive Communist indoctrination, or "re-education in the spirit of Communism" which many children from Christian families have to endure.

Thus, three of the Vashchenko girls were separated from their family for six years. Two years ago, Galina Rytikova, a member of the Baptist church in Moscow, lost custody of her children because she had been teaching them religion. In the autumn of 1980 Maria Drumova, a Baptist from Izmail, province of Odessa, was deprived of her 12-year old daughter Maria and her 4-year old son Alexander for the same reason. There are many more similar tragedies on record.

Even when left with their parents, children of believers are victims of particularly harsh treatment in school. Communist indoctrination begins early, in the kindergarten, and compulsory study of atheism soon follows. It is the teacher's duty to "persuade" both students and their parents of the fallacy of religious faith. Teachers get demerits for each pupil in the class known to be a believer or the child of believers, and it is up to the teacher to convert the whole family to Marxism-Leninism. This means visits to the family on "person-to-person" basis, in other words, an additional burden for the teacher who then uses with impunity every means of less than gentle persuasion. Children are humiliated in the classroom. Teachers frequently entice their fellow students to gang up against the believers, torment them and beat them. Thus, young Ivan Migashkin of Tapa, Estonia, has lost hearing in one ear following assaults and stoning by his classmates. His older brothers were seriously injured by their fellow students and beaten severely by their school principal. The Migashkins have joined the Christian emigration movement.

The cruelty against children helps intimidate many parents. Another factor weighing heavily on their minds is the future of their children: all but elementary education is closed to them. Thus, they are doomed to menial labor, inferior housing, and poverty.

Even mutual assistance or Christian charity is prohibited by law. Soviet authorities classify it as "religious propaganda" which, unlike atheistic propaganda, is strictly forbidden. Thus, Lilia Belysheva, a 30-year old Christian from Nakhodka in the Far East, took a group of 10- and 12-year old girls from Pentecostal families to clean the house of an 82-year old Pentecostal lady. They were scrubbing the floors and washing the woodwork when a whole detachment of police arrived and arrested them all. After hours of interrogation in the police station the girls, frightened out of their wits, were released with warning, and Lilia was fined 50 rubles "for violation of the Regulation on Religious Rituals, namely, for help to an old woman," as specified on the official receipt.

There is no appeal. Laws and regulations are interpreted arbitrarily by the officials in charge.

Christians do not face adversity and persecution only at a young age. The old and disabled are not exempt from brutality perpetrated by the Soviets. Last year 59-year old Pentecostal bishop Nikolai Goretoi was tried for his religious activity and sentenced to 7 years at hard labor to be followed by 5 years in internal exile. Goretoi is blind.

Rev. Vladimir Shelkov, the leader of the Adventist church, had spent 25 of his 83 years in prisons and labor camps. In his last years he lived in seclusion, writing purely religious sermons and prayers. In March 1979 he was brought to court on charges that while living in a basement room without electricity he had forged Soviet passports. There was no official explanation of this exceptional accomplishment -- 83-year old man forges passports in an underground cubicle, in the candlelight! The absurdity of such charges aside, Rev. Shelkov was sentenced to 5 years at hard labor. He served only 5 months in the labor camp. He died in Yakutsk, Siberia, in January 1980 at the age of 84.

Among the inmates of Siberian labor camps are numerous practicing Christians, particularly conscientious objectors who refused induction in the Red Army because they would not pledge allegiance to an atheistic government. The penalty is 3 years and up at hard labor. In the camps conscientious objectors are handpicked for special punishment. Thus, for instance, the Vashchenkos' son, Alexander (Sasha), was assigned to a group of homosexual prisoners, the most despised and ostracized inmates in the camp. The idea was to humiliate Sasha and expose him to physical brutality.

For the slightest infraction of the rules, more frequenly imagined or invented than real, Christian inmates are subjected to additional penalties, especially incarceration in the dreaded "solitary," unheated cubicles without beds and bedding, with food rations consisting of less than one lb of bread and one pint of tepid soup issued every other day. In Siberia prisoners usually succumb to TB and other chronic diseases after several weeks of this treatment. To name just one: young conscientious objector, Vladimir Frolov, an Adventist, contracted TB in the solitary in the Siberian labor camp of Khairiuzovka.

Last year that same camp was decimated by anthrax-like epidemic allegedly brought in by a group of prisoners transferred from the Sverdlovsk area following the very much discussed incident possibly connected with preparations for biological warfare.

Service in the armed forces does not necessarily guarantee Christians and Jews humane treatment. Again, believers are subjected to various kinds of torment. In 1972 Ivan Moyseyev, a practicing Christian eager to share his spiritual belief with his fellow soldiers, died under mysterious circumstances, his body horribly mutilated.

Christians and Jews in the USSR cannot associate freely. If they meet privately for prayer or worship, the home of their host may be confiscated. In most cases the police just collect fines from the participants, usually 2 weeks' salary of the breadwinner, but pensioners may lose a considerable part of their annual income for nothing more than praying with their friends.

Yet Soviet Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to believe or not to believe. It also guarantees the right of antireligious propaganda, but not of religious propaganda or teaching. The Constitution allegedly separates the church from the state and the state from the church, which should prevent any intervention on the part of the state and government in the matters of citizens' faith, family and worship. In reality it is not so. Soviet laws put the churches in complete servitude and control all their activities. They demand that every congregation be registered with the state and supervised by the authorities, i.e., the Communist party. Clergymen and all employees of the church, members of board of deacons and trustees, elders and other church officials must be approved by the State Council on Religious Affairs which is staffed from top to bottom by Communist officials trained in atheistic propaganda. It censors in advance sermons of the clergy and approves every church program. Its decisions cannot be appealed.

The extent of the strangulation perpetrated by this official body comes to light in the secret report to the Presidium of the CPSU written by V. Furov, deputy chairman of the State Council on Religious Affairs. The report which has been smuggled out from the USSR last year is published in our journal RCDA--RELIGION IN COMMUNIST DOMINATED AREAS.

Many Christians reject this control of churches and insist on the letter of the law according to which the state is separated from the church and vice versa. These believers are defying the authorities and take enormous risks. Since a new atheistic campaign was announced in the USSR in 1979, numerous leaders and members of Evangelical churches were arrested and sentenced on charges of religious activities (often presented as "anti-state activities" or "subversion"). The campaign is broad-based and very costly and those involved in it must show some results. Thus, a new wave of persecution and harassment has been unleashed, yet the system cannot annihilate all religious congregations. It is evident that the hardship has made the believers much stronger and determined to demand their rights.

The campaign against religious believers, whether from the registered or unregistered churches, uses extremely dirty tricks; it recycled the worn-out anti-Semitic myth about ritual murder and adapted it to Evangelicals. The sad thing is that many Soviet citizens actually believe it.

For instance, the mother of Nadia Zherdev became hysterical when she learned that her daughter and son-in-law were converted. The old lady, a dedicated Communist, sincerely believed that as Christians, the Zherdevs would sacrifice their babies to God.

A young Pentecostalist from Moscow wrote in a letter smuggled from the USSR: "You may already know about our desire to emigrate from the USSR because of religious persecution. My husband was expelled from an art college for his belief, and barely avoided expulsion from the Institute of Art in Moscow, again for being a Christian; by God's grace he managed to graduate, though with lower marks. Three other members of the same group of Christians were thrown out in their fifth year of study.

"We Christians have no right to profess our faith, no right to bring up our children in Christian faith; we are like outcasts and lepers to the people around us. Official propaganda portrays us as a debilitating, dangerous sect that makes sacrifice of children's blood, etc. At the same time we are living behind an iron wall. We are not allowed to leave the USSR, to emigrate.

"I do not know if you've heard about the demonstrated on March 8th when 11 women expressed their wish to emigrate and protested against the discrimination of Christians. Yet we were not granted permission to leave the USSR. On several occasions I went to the Department of Visa and Emigration (OVIR) without any success. Officials told me more than once that in order to get exit visa I must have an invitation from relatives abroad. If your church would accept us strangers in the name of Christ, I'd be delighted beyond measure. I should like to ask for an invitation for another Christian sister, Galina, a teacher of disabled children. Because of her religious persuasion she has been banned from her profession and is working as a washerwoman."

It is axiomatic that all Soviet Christians, or even Evangelicals, cannot emigrate, but neither do all Soviet Jews wish to emigrate. Once their grievances are made known and their human rights upheld in the free world, the Soviet system will be forced into recognizing them and their demands.

Those 50,000 wishing to emigrate should be given the opportunity to leave the USSR. Many of them would like to go to Israel, Canada, West Europe or other countries in the West, not necessarily the USA. They would be an asset for any society. These are very diligent, upright, honest, courageous, highly moral people who do not seek economic advantages but religious freedom.

Please note that the Soviet Jews who emigrated to the USA have become valuable members of our society. The same applies for Soviet Christians. They may not be glamorous but it is certain that they would not contribute to crime, illegitimacy, alcoholism or juvenile delinquency, nor would they become burden for us.

This hearing concerns only two families among many, the tip of an iceberg. These seven persons have lived in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow since June 1978 not because of their own will but due to circumstances. They cannot go back and expect that they will survive. Two Soviet citizens, Nazorov and Lesnov, who had recently entered the Moscow Embassy without Soviet permission, have been imprisoned after a very brief meeting with U.S. officials. The Vashchenkos and

Chmykhalovs issued statements and provided information which the Soviets regard as damaging to the USSR, in other words, as treason. The punishment is death -- sometimes by execution, some times by slow agony, as in the case of Anatoly Shcharansky and the two Christian defendents in the infamous Leningrad trial, Alexey Murzhenko and Yuri Fedorov.

The bill under discussion, so eloquently proposed by Senator Carl Levin, will ensure the five Vashchenkos and two Chmykhalovs a modicum of security and raise their chance that the Soviet government will finally realize how counterproductive it is to hold these people against their will. They are not essential for the glorious future of the Soviet empire. In the midst of their profound economic and spiritual crisis the Soviets must come to grips with reality and adopt the code of civilized behavior in terms of human rights and religious freedom. It does not come naturally to them but they learn if they have to.

We must come to grips with reality just as well and realize that the Soviets will never make concessions on their own. We must support the believers in the USSR -- the Orthodox, Catholics, Protestant, Evangelicals, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists -- because they adhere to non-Marxist ideology despite more than 60 years of intensive and often extremely ruthless religious persecution.

For that reason bill S. 312 is a landmark in our legislation. It will not serve as a precedent--from the very inception it was articulated so as to avoid that--but as a clear statement of the magnanimity of the USA, an inspiration to captive nations and to the Confessing Church, and a light of hope to those languishing in Gulags and other places of human degradation.

Senator SIMPSON. Thank you for a very powerful statement, sir. We very much appreciate it.

Kent Hill, please.

STATEMENT OF KENT R. HILL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Dr. HILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before beginning, I would like to note that the text you have before you is an abbreviated and modified version of my original draft. Mr. Chairman, I would like to request that this text and the attached article from Christianity Today be included in the written record.

Senator SIMPSON. Without objection, so ordered.

Dr. HILL. One of the most often expressed reservations about granting the "Siberian Seven" permanent resident alien status is the fear that we would be establishing a precedent for turning our Embassies into refugee centers. However, if all of the facts were publicized, it would become obvious that this is such an extraordinary case that it could be dealt with in a very special way without establishing the much-feared precedent.

What are these unpublicized facts which justify the special treatment provided for by S. 312?

First, it should be made absolutely clear that these Christians from Siberia came to the Moscow Embassy to visit, not to demand asylum pending the reception of Soviet emigration visas.

Second, they came to the Embassy to discuss their problems in emigration. They brought with them a letter written in 1975 by American consular officials expressly requesting that they keep the Embassy informed regarding developments in their protracted efforts to emigrate.

Thus, when the Soviet militia barred their entrance to the Embassy and physically abused John Vashchenko at the very gates of the American Embassy, it was the Soviets who were at fault, not the visitors. It was the Soviet violence which turned their visit into a desperate plea for refuge.

Third, the Siberian Seven cannot leave the safety of the American Embassy to return to Soviet society without subjecting themselves and their families to grave personal danger. I do not believe this reality can be overemphasized.

I was in Moscow during those first frightening days when we awaited news regarding the fate of John Vashchenko. I was with them during that tortuous early period when it was not certain whether the Americans would continue to shelter them, when there was the very real fear that they would be forcibly ejected from the Embassy.

I examined the documents they brought to the Embassy—prison sentences, official search reports, detailed descriptions of harassments of every sort which lasted for several decades. I translated hundreds of pages of documentation they supplied. I know these people. I know what they have suffered at the hands of the Soviet authorities, and I know the fate which awaits them just outside the American Embassy gates.

There is no greater crime in the Soviet Union than to slander the Soviet state. Slander, of course, is defined as anything which does not bring credit to the state. Unfortunately, this means that any honest assessment of the extent of persecution of religious believers is considered slanderous.

The Siberian Seven have provided the Free World with one of the most extensive accounts of religious persecution to have emerged in recent years. My translations alone totaled over 200,000 words, only a portion of which is recounted in John Pollock's book "The Siberian Seven." They have literally risked everything to tell their story, which is also the story of many thousands of other believers in the Soviet Union.

We cannot turn our back on them now. We have allowed the Siberian Seven refuge in our Embassy for almost 3½ years. The very least we can do, at this late date, is to recognize that the families can never leave the sanctuary of the Embassy without Soviet exit visas in hand.

The State Department argues that passage of S. 312 would interfere with its ability to resolve this case. For 3½ years we have waited in vain for the State Department to act in a decisive and convincing manner in support of these families. It has not done so and we are no closer to a solution today than we were 3½ years ago. This bill cannot halt progress which is not being made.

It was stated in testimony earlier today that perhaps in a closed session you might hear of other developments in this case. But I can assure you the sort of information you will hear has to do with high-level negotiations, which have occurred under both the Carter and the Reagan administrations. I would point out that talk at this point is rather cheap. Until we are willing to put some teeth behind our negotiators, we are not going to resolve this case. If we are really committed to protecting them in the Embassy, why the hesitancy to put these guarantees into legal form?

The State Department asserts that we would irritate the Soviets and therefore make it impossible to resolve the case. Sometimes I wonder who makes our policy—is it the Soviets? Do we really allow them to determine how we treat people within our own Embassy?

It is bad enough that we allow the Soviets to dictate access policy to our Embassy, and unthinkable that we would permit them to make decisions regarding our own conduct within the Embassy.

The time has come to take action, to grant the Siberian Seven some real guarantees to protect them from arbitrary changes in treatment within the Embassy. It is no wonder the Soviets have done nothing. We cannot expect them to take this case seriously when we have not taken it seriously.

The State Department fears offending the Soviets and thereby jeopardizing the case. But the evidence is conclusive that speaking out and taking firm action did not endanger Georgi Vins, Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, and dozens of other Soviet dissidents who have obtained freedom to the West. On the contrary, it was their only protection. It was, in fact, their ticket to freedom. S. 312 may very well be an important first step to freedom for the Siberian Seven. Let us not hesitate to take it.

[Prepared statement of Dr. Hill follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KENT R. HILL

One of the most often expressed reservations about granting the "Siberian Seven" permanent resident alien status is the fear that we would be establishing a precedent for turning our embassies into refugee centers. However, if all of the facts were publicized, it would become obvious that this is such an extraordinary case that it could be dealt with in a very special way without establishing the much-feared precedent.

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First, it should be made absolutely clear that these Christians from Siberia came to the Moscow Embassy to VISIT, not to demand asylum pending the reception of Soviet emigration visas.

Second, they came to the embassy to discuss their problems in emigration. They brought with them a letter written in 1975 by American consular officials expressly requesting that they keep the embassy informed regarding developments in their protracted efforts to emigrate.

Thus, when the Soviet militia barred their entrance to the embassy and physically abused John Vashchenko in the very gates of the American Embassy, it was the Soviets who were at fault, not the visitors. It was the Soviet violence which turned their visit into a desperate plea for refuge.

Third, the "Siberian Seven" cannot leave the safety of the American Embassy to return to Soviet society without subjecting themselves and their familes to grave personal danger. I do not believe this reality can be overemphasized. I was in Moscow during those first frightening days when we awaited news regarding the fate of John Vashchenko. I was with them during that torturous early period when it was not certain whether the Americans would continue to shelter them, when there was the very real fear that they would be forcibly ejected from the embassy. I examined the documents they brought to the embassy--prison sentences, official search reports, detailed descriptions of harassments of every sort endured for several decades. I translated hundreds of pages of the documentation they supplied. I know these people. I know what they have suffered at the hands of the Soviet authorities, and I know the fate which awaits them just outside the American Embassy gates.

There is no greater crime in the Soviet Union than to slander the Soviet state. Slander, of course, is defined as anything which does not bring credit on the state. Unfortunately, this means that any honest assessment of the extent of persecution of religious believers is considered "slanderous." The "Siberian Seven" have provided the free world with one of the most extensive accounts of religious persecution to have emerged in recent years. My translations alone totaled over 200,000 words, only a portion of which is recounted in John Pollock's book The Siberian Seven. They have literally risked everything to tell their story, which is also the story of many thousands of other believers in the Soviet Union.

We cannot turn our back on them now. We have allowed the "Siberian Seven" refuge in our embassy for almost 3½ years. The very least we can do, at this late date, is to recognize that the families can never leave the sanctuary of the embassy without Soviet exit visas in hand.

The State Department argues that passage of S. 312 would interfere with its ability to resolve this case. For 3½ years we have waited in vain for the State Department to act in a decisive and convincing manner in support of these families. It has not done so and we are no closer to a solution today than we were 3½ years ago. This bill cannot halt progress which is not being made.

The State Department asserts that we would irritate the Soviets and therefore make it impossible to resolve the case. Sometimes I wonder who makes our policy--is it the Soviets? Do we really allow them to determine how we treat people within our own embassy? It is bad enough that we allow the Soviets to dictate access policy to our embassy, and unthinkable that we would permit them to make decisions regarding our own conduct within the embassy.

The time has come to take action--to grant the "Siberian Seven" some real guarantees to protect them from arbitrary changes in treatment within the embassy. It is no wonder the Soviets have done nothing. We cannot expect them to take this case seriously when we have not taken it seriously. The State Department fears offending the Soviets and thereby jeopardizing the case. But the evidence is conclusive that speaking out and taking firm action did not endanger Georgi Vins, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and dozens of other Soviet dissidents. On the contrary, it was their only protection; it was, in fact, their ticket to freedom. S. 312 may very well be an important first step to freedom for the "Siberian Seven." Let us not hesitate to take it.

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NEWS

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After Three Long Years: Glimmers of Movement in 'Siberian Seven' Impasse

American policy toward embassy guests warms, and European support builds.

For an update on the situation of the seven Pentecostal believers confined in the American Embassy in Moscow, CHRISTIANITY TODAY turned to Kent R. Hill, the assistant professor of history at Seattle Pacific University who was in Moscow when they first made their dash for freedom. He translated the voluminous written narrative of the seven into English for biographer John Pollock and became their friend.

When the "Siberian Seven" arrived at the American embassy in Moscow on June 27, 1978, they were seeking assistance in emigrating from the Soviet Union on grounds of religious persecution. They expected their visit to be short. It was not. The brutality of Soviet militia stationed in front of the embassy transformed a brief visit into a desperate plea for asylum. The de facto asylum that resulted recently entered its fourth year, and there is still no diplomatic solution in sight.

The diplomatic stalemate could immediately be resolved if the Soviets would simply grant the Vaschenko and Chmykhalov families (including members at home in Siberia as well as those in the embassy) the necessary emigration visas. Soviet refusal to cooperate in this matter could perhaps have been expected. What was not expected was U.S. reluctance actively to support the case. Nevertheless, for over two-and-a-half years, the U.S. Department of State and its embassy in Moscow seemed far more concerned with convincing the refugees to leave the safe confines of the American compound than in pressuring the Soviets to grant them their freedom. Since about February 1981, however, there has been a very encouraging change of attitude on the part of the American embassy.

Not only have the Siberian Seven suffered from the initial refusal of American government authorities to pursue their case actively, they have also suffered from the neglect and apathy of the American church community. Many thousands of individual American Christians have given support at the grassroots level, and a few organizations and journals have lent support. But most Christian leaders and organizations in this country have chosen to remain silent. In large part that explains why the Siberian Seven are still almost completely unknown to the majority of American Christians. In contrast, European Christians have been much more responsive to the desperate plight of these victims of Soviet religious persecution.

A successful resolution to this diplomatic stalemate may depend on the willingness of the government and the Christian community at large in this country to join with their European counterparts in putting pressure on the Soviets to release the Siberian Seven and their families. Their fate may well hang in the balance.

First, we must review how the Americans handled the situation during the first two-and-a-half years, the period when the Siberian Seven could best be described as unwanted guests in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. From the first, American officials repeatedly asserted that the State Department and Moscow embassy were doing everything they could to encourage the Soviets to grant the Vashchenkos and Chymkhalovs permission to emigrate. Furthermore, U.S. and embassy officials always maintained that the Siberian Seven would not be forced to leave the embassy.

There were persistent reports, however, both in this country and abroad, that the actual U.S. policy was to discourage the families from staying. The embassy deliberately minimized publicity and deprived the families of free contact with those who were willing to provide them with moral support. For many months, consular officers repeatedly denied permission to many members of the diplomatic community in Moscow, as well as numerous visitors from the West, to meet with the families. A variety of firsthand observers have confirmed that the embassy refused to allow correspondents to interview the families in the room where they live, refused to allow the news media to photograph or film them in their room, and maintained a limited access list of those permitted to see the families.

Maria and Timothy Chmykhalov.

In a concerted effort to isolate as much as possible the Siberian Seven from the support of Christians in the West, embassy officials even refused to show the families copies of letters sent via international mail—rather than by diplomatic pouch, at the American embassy's insistence—the originals of which had been confiscated by the Soviets. The U.S. government's policy during this period, though it physically maintained the familes at the Moscow embassy, clearly was unsupportive and at times bordered on outright harassment.

The coolness of American policy toward the Russian refugees did provoke some reaction in the West, though not much. Kevin Lynch wrote several articles for *National Review* (Aug. 31, 1979; Mar. 21, 1980; April 3, 1981), documenting the negative side of American policy toward the Siberian Seven. Vladimir Bukovsky, the well-known Soviet dissident, attacked U.S. harassment of the Siberian Seven in a letter to the editors of *Time*, printed in its issue of June 4, 1979. Bukovsky, best known in the West for his role in exposing the Soviet practice of using psychiatric hospitals as political prisons, continued his assault on U.S. policy in mid-1979 in an address to the Coalition for a Democratic Majority.

Few Americans, however, ever became aware of U.S. policy regarding the Siberian Seven. Many still did not know who they were, let alone how they were being treated.

The Siberian Seven have requested political asylum in the embassy because they fear for their lives. Since arriving at the embassy, 1,500 pages of their autobiographies and documents have been translated into English and formed the basis for *The Siberian Seven*, written by John Pollock. Published by Word, this 276-page volume is one of the best-documented accounts of the persecution of Christians by the Soviet government.

The struggle of the Siberian Seven to emigrate to the West spans almost two decades and encompasses almost all of the types of sufferings that Christians behind the Iron Curtain have had to bear:

Peter and Augustina Vaschenko.

Lida, Lyuba, and Lila Vaschenko. Brother John was seized by the Soviet militia.

violent disruption of church services, abduction of children from Christian parents for placement in state orphanages, confinement in labor camps and psychiatric hospitals, and mysterious deaths. Pollock's book provides numerous examples of the petty harassments that are a daily occurrence for several million Russian Christians. The official papers provided by the Siberian Seven impressively corroborate and highlight a wide variety of sources already available in the West on the conditions of Christians behind the Iron Curtain.

Now that the families have allowed their account of Soviet persecution to be published in the West, they have *no* alternative but to remain in the embassy until their case is favorably resolved. On July 27, former British Foreign Secretary David Owen summed up the plight of the refugees as follows:

"The Siberian Seven are a very good example of the gravity of the human rights situation inside the Soviet Union, and I have long supported both publicly and privately that they should be allowed out of the Soviet Union. I do not think there is any way that they could return to their families without fear of persecution and harassment."

In view of the real danger that awaits the refugees outside the American embassy, how can we account for the tireless efforts of U.S. officials to convince the families to leave it?

A major factor that certainly contributed to the government's initial reluctance to publicize this highly unusual story, especially during the early months of the group's stay in the embassy, was the fear that the Senate ratification of the SALT II agreement would be jeopardized. It was assumed that Soviet violation of agreements guaranteeing freedom of religion and emigration would call into question the whole issue of Soviet trustworthiness on new international agreements. With the failure of SALT II to be ratified by the Senate and the election of a more conservative president and Congress, this particular impediment to support and publicity was removed.

A second factor is the view that it is not in the best interests of the U.S. to intervene. If the U.S. government actively intercedes with the Soviet government on behalf of these seven Christians, will not American embassies throughout the Communist world be deluged with squatters? This question has been raised from time to time during the past three years.

The evidence is conclusive, however, that this particular case need not set a dangerous precedent. The seven did not break into the embassy demanding to emigrate or be given political asylum. They came with an official letter from U.S. Embassy officials authorizing their entry into the embassy to discuss emigration. It was only when the Soviet militia in front of the embassy refused to honor the letter that the situation fundamentally changed. The apprehension and subsequent abuse of John Vashchenko was the incident that turned a routine visit to the embassy into a desperate plea for asylum.

The lives of these people are in grave danger if they leave the embassy. This is the internationally recognized justification for seeking and obtaining political asylum. If the U.S. government simply points out the highly unusual circumstances that compelled the families to remain in the embassy, and particularly the fact that they came with a written invitation, then it can vigorously pursue securing emigration for these refugees without fear of establishing a precedent for allowing unwarranted embassy sit-ins.

Government policy relative to the Siberian Seven never became a major campaign issue in the recent presidential elections. However, during a radio commentary in 1979, Ronald Reagan did criticize the Carter administration's handling of the situation. "Détente," observed the Republican nominee, "is a two-way street. Our wheat and technology can get into Russia—why can't the Vaschenko and Chmykhalov families get out?"

Fortunately, there has been a clear change in embassy policy since about February of this year. Correspondents are now allowed to interview the families in their quarters, rather than in the courtyard. The access list has been eliminated. U.S. citizens are allowed to visit the families in their room, and so may foreigners, provided they first check with the consular section. The seven are now allowed to socialize with other Americans in their apartments, which lie within the safety of the American compound. In addition, the families are now permitted to do unpaid work within the embassy. American authorities have been in contact with important Soviet officials, although it is not yet clear if the negotiations are bearing fruit. The present embassy handling of the situation seems to reflect a genuine change of attitude.

Efforts to influence the U.S. Congress have met with partial success. On May 9, 1980, 50 senators sent a letter to Brezhnev requesting that the Vashchenko and

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The Saga of the Seven

Here, in barest outline, is the story of the Siberian Seven.

Peter Vaschenko grew up in a lay preacher's family driven from its home and forced to wander for two years before finding a Siberian village that tolerated them. He found it easier to be a secret believer as he went to school and then off to war. Only after he married and moved to Chernogorsk did he and his wife, Augustina, become active Christians.

Khrushchev's great persecution caught up with them in 1961. They were constantly harassed inside and outside the church. Three of their children were abducted and placed in a state school to be indoctrinated in atheism.

This was the last straw for Vaschenko. He took his family and some others to Moscow and applied for exit visas. The authorities called them crazy and sent them home. Peter was imprisoned.

Shortly after, in 1963, his wife and three of his children were among 32 Siberian Christians who rushed into the American embassy in Moscow and begged for help in securing permission to leave Russia. They were eventually persuaded by Soviet officials to return home and await legal papers. But once back in Siberia, the believers were arrested and punished.

During the years of persecution that ensued, the Vaschenko family still hoped authorities would grant them permission to emigrate. They managed two more cross-continent trips to the embassy in 1968 and 1975. When they received a mail invitation, or offer of sponsorship, in April 1978, they laid plans for their final attempt, and were joined by two members of the Chmykhalov family. ☐

Chmykhalov families be allowed to emigrate. Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan has been most outspoken on behalf of the families in the embassy. On June 27, 1980, he introduced S. 2890, a bill that would have granted both families "permanent residence status" in the United States. The bill would probably have passed, but it never cleared Sen. Edward Kennedy's Judiciary Committee. The bill was reintroduced as S. 312 in the new session and thus far has more than 60 cosponsors. Once more *it* is hung up in committee, this time a subcommittee on immigration. Prospects for passage are good—*if* Christians throughout the United States make it clear to their senators that they wish it to be supported.

Unfortunately, it is widespread support by Christians that has been so noticeably lacking during these past three years. The original core of people who came in contact in Moscow with the Siberian Seven have remained steadfast in their efforts to effect a positive resolution of their quest for emigration. Others have joined the campaign and devoted many hours and days to working on their behalf. *The Siberian Seven* chronicled the intriguing and gripping story of fellow believers in desperate need of help, but American Christians have preferred to read other less-demanding materials that would not evoke pain.

Then, of course, the Siberian Seven are Pentecostals, and many are reluctant to become involved with Pentecostals. Christians in the West have the luxury of not having to be united to protect their interests, and so we have made disunity a virtue. It does not seem to matter that the theological issues that separate a Baptist from a Pentecostal, for example, are infinitesimally small in comparison to what they have in common. Nor does it matter that behind the Iron Curtain, Soviet officials persecute Russian Orthodox, Baptist, and Pentecostal believers alike because of their devotion to God, not because they do or do not speak in tongues. One of the most impassioned defenders of the Siberian Seven, Vladimir Bukovsky, is not even a Christian. In stark contrast, Christian leaders and organizations in this country have often been silent, or at best, timid.

The response of Christian organizations in the U.S. has been perplexing. Both "liberal" and "conservative" groups have been unwilling to offer much assistance. The National Council of Churches, the Pentecostals, and the Baptists have all shown a certain reluctance to protest actively the treatment of Christians behind the Iron Curtain. The reasons for this reluctance are complex, but basically revolve around the successful way in which the Soviet Union has utilized a policy of allowing "registered" church leaders to travel in the West.

These officially sponsored leaders tell American church officials that there is really very little problem in the Soviet Union with respect to persecution. Besides, if Americans do protest, it will simply mean that even the "registered" leaders will be cut off from their Christian brothers in the West. The Soviet ploy has proven amazingly successful with rather gullible church leaders in the West, especially in the U.S.

Nevertheless, there have been some important efforts to aid the Siberian Seven and publicize their situation. Most Christian organizations in the West that work with Christians behind the Iron Curtain or publish materials about them have sought to make their constituencies aware of their plight. Evangelism to Communist Lands included some footage of the Siberian Seven in a recent film, *Let My People Go*. In Texas, Christ for the Nations has furnished considerable help. The two most important organizations in the U.S. working on behalf of the seven are the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies and the Society of Americans for Vashchenko/Chmykhalov Emigration (S.A.V.E.). The latter is headed by Cecil Williamson, minister of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church in Selma, Alabama. It was Williamson and his congregation that sent the official invitation for the Vashchenkos to emigrate to America. Jane Drake, S.A.V.E. secretary, has worked tirelessly for many months to keep Christians concerned about the Siberian Seven informed about recent developments.

THE SIBERIAN SEVEN
John Pollock

Biographer John Pollock and his book.

The New York–based Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies, publisher of the respected journal *Religion in Communist Dominated Areas*, has been a crucial nerve center for the dissemination of accurate and current information on the Siberian Seven. Blaho and Olga Hruby are the driving forces behind this effort. It was in their journal that the first detailed account of the story of the seven appeared in 1978. They have provided important information and advice to officials on Capitol Hill and to S.A.V.E. Olga Hruby has been instrumental in arranging for English language instruction for the seven and is at present seeking to set up tutoring in the embassy that will lead to high school equivalency diplomas for several of the young people who are members of the group.

Yet, despite publication of *The Siberian Seven*, despite the selfless efforts of several hundred Americans, millions of Christians in this country have not been reached or motivated to action. Considerably more success has been achieved in Europe.

The most important organization to support the campaign on behalf of the seven on the Continent has been the Zurich-based Christian Solidarity International. President Hans Stückelberger's organization has been involved for three years in publicizing throughout Europe the plight of the families. An active effort has been made to recruit fellow Christians through materials in French, German, and Swedish. The Swedes have been particularly responsive.

Marianne Ridge has been in charge of the Christian Solidarity International program. She has devoted herself to the task with unusual perseverance and is largely responsible for the fact that the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs receive letters today via international mail. American officials have insisted throughout that they cannot deliver mail addressed to the Russian families that arrives at the embassy via diplomatic pouch. They contend this is a violation of mail agreements with the Soviets, and only correspondence that comes through the international route (that is, through the hands of the Soviets) can be given to the refugees. This means, of course, that virtually all of the mail from Western Christians was confiscated during the early months of their stay in the embassy. Ridge established a system whereby Christians in the West sent copies to Christian Solidarity International of the letters they mailed to the embassy. She kept track of how many of the originals arrived at the embassy and publicized the figures in the West, showing how few letters were getting through. The Soviets are now allowing much of the mail to reach the embassy—a change that is due in large part to the efforts of Christian Solidarity International.

Initial support for the Siberian Seven in England centered on the efforts of John Pollock, author of *The Siberian Seven*, and of Keston College. Hodder and Stoughton published the book in 1979, several months before the American edition was available. The English edition is now completely sold out. Keston College in Kent is operated by the Society for the Study of Religion Under Communism. It is under the direction of Michael Bourdeaux and publishes the journal *Religion in Communist Lands*. Bourdeaux and Keston College are recognized throughout the world for their scholarly and careful study of religion behind the Iron Curtain. From the first, they have done what they could to publicize the plight of the Siberian Seven.

It was not until last spring, however,

that a major British campaign was launched on behalf of the Russian Christians stranded in the U.S. Moscow embassy. The impetus for it emerged from an interview Dan Wooding conducted with me in Seattle.

Kent Hill

Upon Wooding's return to Britain, and with the support of the Seattle-based "Friends in the West" (headed by Ray Barnett), the "Campaign to Free the Siberian Seven" was launched in Great Britain.

In contrast to the United States, the response of the Christian community in Britain was enthusiastic. A key factor in generating this response was the active involvement of Christian leaders and organizations. Peter Meadows, publishing editor of *Buzz Magazine* (Britain's largest-selling interdenominational Christian monthly), took the lead in forming a British committee that included Bourdeaux, Pollock, and David Atkinson (member of Parliament). Danny Smith, former communications executive in Europe for World Vision, was recruited to head the campaign to aid the Moscow refugees. On April 7, the *Manchester Guardian* carried a story announcing to the British public the creation of the committee.

The British committee focused its initial efforts on achieving two objectives: mobilizing the Christian community in Britain to speak out on behalf of the Siberian Seven, and organizing a demonstration in London's Trafalgar Square, which was set for June 27—the three-year anniversary of the Russian Christians' arrival at the American embassy. They succeeded in both areas. Special "action packs" were prepared for distribution to churches and concerned individuals throughout Britain. Included in the materials were a tape/slide presentation, leaflets on what the situation was and what Christians could do to help, buttons, and so on. Over 700 such action packs have been dispersed thus far.

The Trafalgar Square demonstration not only occurred, but it attracted the attention of the British press. It was preceded on June 25 by a press conference organized by the "Campaign to Free the Siberian Seven" committee. All the major news media were present. A call was placed at the conference to the American embassy in order to speak with the Siberian Seven. Britain's foremost authority on religion behind the Iron Curtain acted as interpreter for the conversation. The BBC devoted a full eight minutes to coverage of the press conference.

Two days later the demonstration took place. More than 3,000 Christians participated, and national press coverage was excellent. Between 3:30 and 5 P.M., the demonstrators were addressed by several members of Parliament and listened to tapes sent to Britain from the Siberi n Seven. They also heard a firsthand report on the condition of the refugees from Danny Smith, who had just returned from a visit to Moscow. The demonstrators then marched to the Soviet embassy in London, arriving there by 7 P.M. About 500 of the demonstrators squeezed into a church near the embassy to begin an all-night, 12-hour prayer vigil for the Siberian Seven.

Throughout the night, 12 demonstrators stood across from the Soviet embassy holding pictures of the Russian refugees. Every 45 minutes they were replaced by 12 new protesters from the church where the all-night prayer vigil was being held. Ray Barnett and Danny Smith attempted to present to Soviet officials a 22-foot-long petition requesting emigration permission for the seven. The Soviets refused to accept the petition, which contained the signatures of several thousand British Christians. The whole episode was covered by national television, making its way into millions of households throughout the British Isles, and thereby greatly increasing public awareness of the plight of the Siberian Seven.

Another important aspect of the British committee's work has been to involve Parliament in the case. A week before the June demonstration, David Alton (Liberal M.P.) raised the issue in the House of Commons in the form of an "early day motion." If such a motion receives the endorsement of at least 100 members of Parliament, it is submitted to a government secretary and receives an official response. The British committee contacted by mail each member of Parliament as well as the House of Lords, and well over 100 have already pledged their support.

NOTE

Five Steps You Can Take

What American Christians Can Do to Help the Seven

Join the "Free the Siberian Seven" campaign. Modeled after the very successful and ongoing British campaign (sponsored by *Buzz Magazine*) on behalf of the Russian refugees, this is the most ambitious American project thus far undertaken. Friends in the West is coordinating this nationwide endeavor to publicize the plight of the Siberian Seven to American Christians and to give practical suggestions on what they can do to help. The campaign is not intended to supplant projects of other organizations now under way, but to provide a means to inform and mobilize the Christian community as a whole—something that so far has not been achieved.

Special "Action Packs" have been prepared that include a tape/slide presentation. The 50 slides and taped commentary will enable congregations and Christian organizations to become familiar with the Siberian Seven. Also included in the packet is a magazine providing detailed information on the refugees and what Christians can do to aid them. Bracelets carrying the names of individual members of the Siberian Seven are available as prayer reminders.

The "Action Packs" are available by writing Friends in the West, P.O. Box 66515, 14925 22nd Avenue S.W., Seattle, Washington 98166, or by calling toll free in continental U.S. the "Action Line" number: (800) 331-1750, operator 602 (in Oklahoma, [800] 722-3600, operator 602).

Further information about the "Free the Siberian Seven" campaign can be obtained by calling the "Action Line" number, and orders can be placed for specific materials (written information, bracelets, etc.), if the entire "Action Pack" is not needed. Because the "Action Packs" are expensive to produce, a $25 donation is requested, though not required.

Support the Society of Americans for Vashchenko/Chmykhalov Emigration (S.A.V.E.). This group has worked hard to keep Christians informed on recent developments in the case and on what they can do to help. Though hampered by a relatively small mailing list and limited resources, S.A.V.E. deserves support. Contributions are solicited, and they will be glad to put you on their mailing list for updating of information and action suggestions: S.A.V.E., Jane Drake, Secretary, Route 1, Box 49-A, Pike Road, Alabama 36064.

Write the Siberian Seven. In all of the enthusiasm to write governmental officials and publicize the case, supporters frequently forget that the Siberian Seven are in desperate need of encouragement. Augustina Vashchenko, for example, must sit in the embassy day after day and wonder how her small children at home are faring. Parents and relatives get sick and die, the children suffer without their parents, and the family members in the embassy feel helpless.

Letters of love and support from Christians in the West are a great boost to morale. Answering the letters is a healthy use of their time and confirms for them that they are not forgotten in Moscow. Reading *The Siberian Seven* by John Pollock is helpful for concerned Christians in the West who, in writing to them, want to know something about their lives. But in any case, the seven are pleased simply to hear from American friends concerned about their welfare.

It is suggested that letters be addressed to individual members of the Siberian Seven, rather than to the whole group.

Buzz Magazine/Chris Gander photo

Demonstrators marching from Trafalgar Square to the Soviet embassy in London.

The issue has proven to be nonpartisan, attracting the support of Conservative, Liberal, and Labour members of Parliament. The list of those supporting the "Campaign to Free the Siberian Seven" is quite impressive: Winston Churchill (M.P. and grandson of the late prime minister), Clement Freud (M.P. and grandson of Sigmund Freud), Sir Hugh Frazier (House of Lords), Lord Chalfont (House of Lords), David Steel (leader of the Liberal party), and David Owen (former foreign secretary and leader of the new Social Democratic party). The Christian rock star Cliff Richard also has publicly endorsed the cause.

The British committee is now occupied in its biggest project to date: the attempt to arrange a joint invitation from 300 British churches to the Siberian Seven and their families to emigrate to England. The archbishop of Canterbury recently committed himself to appeal publicly on behalf of the "Siberian Seven."

What are the prospects for a successful resolution of this protracted struggle by the Siberian Seven to emigrate to the West? In a word, uncertain. Supporters of the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs in the West are well aware that it is not within the powers of the U.S. government to grant the families the right to emigrate. Ultimately that decision must remain with the Soviets. It is, however, within our powers to provide the families with our full support while they are in the embassy and to make their difficult stay as pleasant as possible. This becomes particularly crucial in light of the very severe psychological pressures to which the families in the embassy are subject while their case drags on with no end in sight.

In the past, the Soviets have shown themselves vulnerable to public pressure from the West. Consider, for example, the successes in Jewish emigration brought about by a committed Jewish and human rights lobby. There are far more Christians in this country than Jews, but they are silent and disunited. If they raised their voices in protest, they would not only guarantee U.S. government support of the case, but might well have an influence on the Soviets who seek to avoid negative publicity whenever possible.

It would be well to remember the words of Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The ultimate fate of the Siberian Seven may well test our awareness of that truth. ☐

The names and birthdays of the seven are as follows:

Peter Vaschenko: October 30, 1927; Augustina Vashchenko: March 28, 1929; Lida Vaschenko: March 6, 1951; Lyuba Vaschenko: December 17, 1952; Lila Vaschenko: July 16, 1957; Maria Chmykhalov: June 19, 1922; Timothy Chmykhalov: April 30, 1962.

The American embassy in Moscow requires that letters to the Siberian Seven be sent via international mail using the following address:

Peter Vaschenko (for example)
Embassy of the U.S.A.
Ulitsa Chaikovskogo 19/21
Moscow, USSR 117234.

To prevent unnecessary delays, it is best to send letters airmail. Although the mail must pass through the hands of the Soviets, delivery has been quite good in recent months if it carried clear indication at the top of letters that a copy was being sent to an agency that monitors delivery of the original letters to the embassy. The best place for Americans to send copies of their letters is to: Religion in Communist Dominated Areas (RCDA), 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027. The Hrubys of RCDA also operate with very limited financial resources and are worthy of financial support.

Write letters to government officials. It is absolutely essential that American authorities are convinced that the Christian community in this country fully support efforts by the U.S. government to do whatever it can to convince the Soviets to grant the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs the right to emigrate to the West. Christians should commend the American embassy for its fine support of the Siberian Seven since early in 1981 and urge that this positive treatment of the case be continued as long as necessary.

NOTE

It is particularly important that Christians write their senators and ask them whether they [illegible] supporting S. 312, the bill that wo[illegible] the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalo[illegible]nent resident status" in the United [illegible]. Christians should express their own [illegible] of the bill as one important way in [illegible] the American government can indicate to the Soviets its commitment to a successful resolution of this thorny dilemma.

In addition to letters from individuals, churches, missionary groups, youth clubs, civic organizations, Bible studies, nursing homes, and so on can also send petitions to government officials expressing their concern and support. Important addresses are:

President Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Your Senator
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Your Representative
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Hon. Arthur Hartman
Embassy of the U.S.A. in Moscow
A.P.O., New York, N.Y. 09862

Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin
Embassy of the USSR
1125 16th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Pray. Christians should pray for the successful resolution of this tragic stalemate, for the morale and spiritual health of the Siberian Seven, and for the inspiration and discipline to do everything within their power to effect a positive resolution of the issue. ☐

Senator **Simpson**. Thank you very much, sir. We appreciate having that testimony.

You at this table have probably spent more time and more effort than any of our fellow citizens in this country on this issue. You have heard, and have heard continually, the commentary of the State Department and the Justice Department indicating their concern about the precedent, and you have each addressed that.

In my capacity as chairman of this subcommittee in dealing with issues of asylum and refugees, and consultation processes, and 16 million people ranging the Earth who have already pulled their feet away from their homelands, seeking a place to go. I have a strong sense of the fact that many around the world look to the United States as a place of refuge.

Do you have any concern that a precedent could come which could result in citizens from repressive regimes seeking asylum in our Embassies with the hope of being granted some kind—let's not say what, whether it is permanent residency, or adjusted status or special status by the United States. Do you foresee that at all in your honest review of it?

Dr. **Hill**. Mr. Chairman, if I could respond.

Senator **Simpson**. Please.

Dr. **Hill**. I would suggest that there is one common item of business that we have before us in terms of a precedent issue, and I think the proponents of this bill are in complete agreement, and that is the commitment of all of us to making our Embassies safe for the conducting of diplomatic business. It is therefore our position that our Embassies must always be places where people can come to discuss, but once the discussions are over, they must leave whether they want to or not. That sounds harsh, but it is a reality we must face.

If this was a case like that, I would say, expel them. But because of the extraordinary nature of this particular case, and the factors that we have brought forth, I think if we would simply publicize all of the facts about this case, that they came to visit and not to seek asylum, that the reason they stayed was because of the violence, et cetera, the fact that they had had almost two decades of contact with American officials, we have grounds to make an exception in a case like this.

I think there is room to, if necessary, clarify the language of the bill to make that position perfectly clear. But I do not think that this case need set that precedent, if we simply talk about the extraordinary nature of it.

Senator **Simpson**. You feel deeply, I perceive, that the bill or something similar to it is the only method now of proper relief.

Dr. **Hill**. It is the most vigorous method that is now on the table. It actually accomplishes two things. It guarantees their status within the American Embassy. The second part of it is equally important, I think, and that is, it sends a clear signal to the Soviets that we take this case very seriously. I think both of those objectives would be achieved, and both would help to enhance to the possibility of resolving the issue.

Senator **Simpson**. Ms. Drake, you describe the measure before us as the strongest statement yet made to the Soviet government concerning mistreatment of human beings. Do you have any reservation at all, because I know the depth of your feelings as I visited with you personally, that in any way that this might actually reduce the likelihood of the Soviets allowing these people to emigrate from Russia?

Ms. **Drake**. Absolutely not. The Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs are dead if they walk outside that Embassy. This is the only hope that they have.

Senator **Simpson**. I do not know, sir, but have you visited these persons? Dr. Hill and Ms. Drake have visited them in the Embassy.

Mr. **Hruby**. I did not, Mr. Chairman. If I may make a brief comment on that question, what will happen then if the bill is passed?

I heard high American diplomats explaining to a group, "if this bill is passed, then the whole of Siberia will come to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow." So what, it would not be an American problem, but it would be a Soviet problem because the whole world would see how many thousands of people want to leave the Soviet paradise. After all, the American Embassy is guarded by the KGB, as you know well from the testimony and the documents that it is almost impossible to enter the Embassy.

Senator **Simpson**. Certainly one of the things in our consultation process that has been presented with regard to refugees is that the Government now has set a limit on those emigrating from the Soviet Union, a rather significant figure, a figure that should give hope to those there who wish to emigrate.

The graver part of the situation is that there will probably be many less who will actually come than the figure that has been established after the consultations by the administration. But at least it shows that our arms are open for that. Of course, the repression is clear in actually seeing how few of those people come.

The figures as to how many Pentecostals and other Christians wishing to emigrate from the Soviet Union, what is your estimate on that, Mr. Hruby, with your background?

Mr. **Hruby**. Mr. Chairman, we believe there are at least 50,000 Christians of various denominations, mostly unregistered, but there are also members of the registered churches. I think that the figure of about 50,000 is quite accurate.

Senator **Simpson**. Senator Grassley of the subcommittee is present. I did not get the opportunity to introduce him to you. He has a very active interest in the affairs of the Immigration and Refugee Subcommittee. He is a newly elected colleague from Iowa, and a very interested participant in these activities.

Senator Grassley.

HON. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA

Senator **Grassley**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to commend you for holding a hearing like this. I don't know whether the legislation in this hearing is precedent setting or precedent breaking or not, but it appears that way to me, at least in the years that I have been in the Congress. So you are to be commended as an individual for showing the concern, and hopefully with the end result of helping the people that are listed in the bill.

I also want to say to you that the reason I was late was because we had a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior in my office from 10:00 until 10:45.

I also want to apologize for not being here when my senior colleague from Iowa was here, because for several years he has had a concern in this area, and has had a leadership role not only in the Congress, but in activity outside the Congress in trying to bring to the public's attention the problems of dissidents around the world—not just in Russia, but around the world as well.

My first question is to Mr. Hruby, or anybody else who would like to answer.

Have the families ever been urged to leave the Embassy, and if so, by whom?

Mr. HRUBY. Senator, may I ask my wife to answer because she did so much in this case.

Mrs. HRUBY. Over the 3½ years, several attempts were made to evict the families. This information we received directly from them, because we are communicating with them, and they appointed us to represent their interests in this country.

One of those efforts took place on August 27, 1978. From June 27 until August 27, they were staying in the waiting room of the Embassy, without facilities. They had to wash up in the lavatories. They were sitting on the sofas and sleeping on the floor. They were fed with food that was brought to them by volunteers on the staff of the Embassy. They hardly had any change of clothing.

On August 27, they were given an ultimatum, and tender persuasion was applied to them to leave the Embassy. By that time they had communication from Chernogorsk, from their family, from their son John who underwent third-degree torture in the hands of the KGB following his aborted attempt to enter the Embassy with his parents and sisters.

Their family in Chernogorsk begged them not to return because that would mean the death or torture for the entire family, including the minor children. The Vashchenkos, by the way, have 13 children, the youngest being about 7 years old.

The Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs thought that they would be evicted. However, Peter Vashchenko is a very stubborn person, obviously, otherwise he would not have been able to withstand all these pressures or persecutions for so many years. He said to the Embassy officials that they were welcome to take him out, carry him out across the threshold, but he would not walk out into the hands of the KGB.

That night numerous cars of the KGB were waiting in front of the Embassy to transport the seven wherever the KGB wanted them transported. So that night the decision was made, presumably by Ambassador Toon, that they could stay.

They were given a room in the Embassy basement that was used for overnight guests, or Marines, and it was called in Embassy vernacular "the Dungeon." Since that day in August 1978, the seven people are living in that crowded little room with two single beds.

Other attempts were made by the Embassy staffers, directly and indirectly, to remove these people, or to persuade them to return to Chernogorsk. The seven refused to accept the assurances of the Embassy that they should take the chances that perhaps nothing would happen to them.

We have an unsigned letter drafted, obviously by the Embassy, in Russian and in English. The letter is undated, but it is obviously a very recent effort on the part of the Embassy to persuade the seven to return to Chernogorsk. I studied both texts.

First there is the Russian version, written in Pidgin Russian which no Russian person would be able to compose, so obviously the seven had nothing to do with formulating this letter. It was written by some American who had perhaps 2 years of high school Russian.

Then follows the English version, which obligates the seven to return to Chernogorsk, providing that the Embassy will seek some assurance from the Soviet authorities that the seven would not be persecuted.

I will be very happy to include this with the statement if you wish to study it.

Senator **Grassley**. I would be happy to have that included in the record.

Senator **Simpson**. Without objection.

[Document follows:]

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Мы просим посла США обратиться в пользу нас Советскому Министерству Иностраных Дел за безопасный выезд из Советского Союза. Мы понимаем, что посол попросит разрешение на выезд на постояное жительство нашей семей из Черногорска, и также попытается достать соглашение Советского правительства не превлекать нас к уголовной ответстаенности за жительство в Американском посольстве и благосклонно рассматривать нашу просьбу эмигрировать из Советского Союза. Мы разрешаем послу сообшить, что при таных условиях мы вернемся в Черногорск чтобы обратиться за разрешение на выезд, и мы обешаем выполнить все пункть такого соглашение.

We request the Ambassador of the United States to make a representation on our behalf to the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek our safe departure from the United States Embassy and emigration from the Soviet Union. We understand that the Ambassador will seek to secure the emigration of our families from Chernogorsk, and will seek a commitment from the Soviet government not to prosecute us for our residence in the Embassy and to look favorably upon our application for emigration from the USSR. We authorize the Ambassador to state that under these conditions we will return to Chernogorsk to apply for exit permission, and we promise to fulfill the terms of such an agreement.

Senator **Grassley**. Mr. Chairman, I think what this is saying, and if that has already been brought out, I hate to be repetitious, that it was a policy of our Government at some level that these people should be encouraged, or a letter like that indicates to me, almost forced out of the Embassy.

I would like to have the chairman respond, if he knows.

Senator **Simpson**. Those are some of the things that are the most vexatious aspects of it. There are all sorts of allegations as to the official line of the United States. Whether they want them out, there is a sense that they do. There is a sense, obviously, that they want to protect them. There is a sense that the international community is watching, and when we get down to those issues we may have to go to a closed or executive session to really determine that. I cannot say what that is.

Senator **Grassley**. I presume that the inference of your comments to me were that it was the official policy of our Government that they should leave.

Mrs. **Hruby**. Senator, I am not sure that it is the official policy of our Government, but it is the policy of the Embassy.

Senator **Grassley**. What restrictions have been placed on the families since arrival at the Embassy, and I would like to especially ask about access to mail, visitors, and the press.

Has there been any noticeable change in policies since there has been a change of administration between Carter and Reagan?

Mrs. **Hruby**. Yes.

Senator **Grassley**. You are answering the last question?

Mrs. **Hruby**. Yes.

Senator **Grassley**. There has been a change?

Mrs. **Hruby**. There has been a change. There has been some improvement.

Senator **Grassley**. Some improvement?

Mrs. **Hruby**. Yes; visitors have access to them. In the beginning, their visitors were extremely restricted. They had to be approved a priori. Only several members of the Embassy staff had access to these people. Now the volunteer visitors are unrestricted. Even outsiders who come in, American visitors, have access to the families without supervision from the Embassy.

Furthermore, there are mail privileges available to these people now, which was not the case in the beginning. At the beginning they were not permitted to have a radio, until we stirred some trouble.

Also, they were not permitted to attend religious services until they wrote a petition to the Pope, which we delivered to the Vatican by courtesy of the Papal legate in Washington and Cardinal Kroi. It was accepted by the Vatican, after which they were able to attend the Catholic services because the Catholic services are held in the compound, in the snack bar, whereas the Protestant church services are held in the Ambassador's residence outside of the compound.

Senator **Grassley**. When you say, they are permitted, you mean——

Mrs. **Hruby**. The seven.

Senator **Grassley**. Yes, the seven. But the change in policy, in other words, American officials are now permitting them to have a radio, as an example.

Mrs. **Hruby**. Yes.

Senator **Grassley**. Why would American Embassy people not want them to attend worship services or have a radio; what was behind our Government's policy?

Mrs. **Hruby**. The purpose was to isolate them from contact with the outside, and it would be psychological pressure on them to leave, because seven people in one room would go insane.

Senator **Grassley**. It appears to be obvious now, except that I just did not think that of American officials wanting to bring that sort of intimidation upon people.

Mrs. **Hruby**. Unfortunately, that was the case. There were personal slurs on the part of some American officials.

Senator **Grassley** What are the accommodations for the seven people like living space, support and comfort?

Mrs. **Hruby**. Ms. Drake was in the Embassy just recently, so perhaps she could give a better description of that.

Ms. **Drake**. I have two complaints. They are sleeping on the floor, and they have a foam mattress that must be the filthiest foam mattress I have ever seen in my life, and some Army blankets that must have been left over from World War II.

Lyuba cannot sleep in the small room because there is not enough room to lay down on the floor, so she has to go out into the hallway. There was already a draft in October, so by January in Moscow it is going to be awfully cold on that cold concrete floor. Lyuba told me that she had asked the Embassy for cots, and they had told her no, it was impossible to get cots.

She also told me that they had asked for paint. I asked the Embassy officials, but of course they had recently arrived there and knew nothing of that. Because I requested it, they did give the paint shortly after I left.

The other thing that I asked for was for Valentina the barber to please be put in another place, and I was very frankly and very strongly told that Valentina needed ventilation, electricity, and water, and there was no other place.

The Embassy women and men liked the way that Valentina fixed their hair, so Valentina will stay there by Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs. So that Valentina cannot hear everything that they are saying, when they are discussing something important, they turn the radio on and whisper.

Dr. **Hill**. Mr. Chairman, may I add to that as well?

Senator **Grassley**. Yes.

Dr. **Hill**. I don't want to in any way minimize what was said, but I think to be fair with the State Department and the Embassy employees, I should note that the living conditions of the families at the Embassy are in some ways probably better than they were for them back home in Siberia. These people are very poor. They come from a very bad background.

Our major complaint is not with their facilities at the Embassy, although they could be improved a lot. The point is that there has been so much fluctuation in State Department policy during the last 3½ years.

The first 2½ years can be described as, basically, varying forms of harassment of one sort or another. Then in January and February of this year, it appeared that the policy was loosening up, becoming more positive toward the folks.

Then I just heard the news just recently that in fact the Embassy position has not, in fact, changed with respect to the question of whether the Embassy is going to urge to return to Chernogorsk.

So I think the whole purpose of the bill is to minimize such fluctuations in the future by granting some sort of legal status which would exclude the possibility that a change in policy could result in negative treatment of them, or possibly expulsion.

Senator GRASSLEY. Any of you could answer this, but what are the implications of this bill, either its introduction and/or passage, have on religious believers in the Soviet Union?

Because of our Government's interest in this, is there any more persecution against believers?

Mrs. HRUBY. Yes, Senator. Two years ago, coinciding with the Pope's visit to Poland, a new antireligious campaign was unleashed, and I mean unleashed. There are numbers of Pentecostal, Adventist, Catholic, Orthodox, Methodist ministers and laymen arrested, harassed, tortured, some were killed, many were sentenced.

We mentioned the case of Reverend Shelkov who spent 25 years of his 83 years in concentration camps, and at the age of 83 he was sentenced to 5 years at hard labor. He survived for 9 months in Siberia, and in January of last year he died there at the age of 84.

There is the case of Reverend Goretoi, a Pentecostal minister, who was sentenced to 7 years in prison, and 5 years of internal exile for purely religious activity. The man is blind.

Senator GRASSLEY. Could I interrupt you, please.

Mrs. HRUBY. Yes.

Senator GRASSLEY. I appreciate these examples, but my question was more to the point. Since this bill was introduced, or if you think that it passes, that there has been or that there will be any more denial of religious freedom, or any more torture and imprisonment as a result of this bill?

Mrs. HRUBY. No, there cannot be.

Senator GRASSLEY. In other words, you are saying that the situation is already so bad.

Mrs. HRUBY. But it will improve because the Soviet Government will have to recognize——

Senator GRASSLEY. You are saying that if the bill passes, then the environment will improve; that is your view?

Mrs. HRUBY. Yes.

Senator GRASSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to put in the record my statement that I was not able to give, but I would like to make the last point that I was going to make orally.

Senator SIMPSON. Without objection.

[Opening statement of Senator Grassley follows:]

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

As we are all well aware people who attempt to practice their faith in the Soviet Union face dire consequences. I believe the situation of the families existing in the basement of the American Embassy in Moscow is representative of families all across Russia who want to live a religious life.

I use the word "existing" because that is exactly what these people are doing—simply existing. They are not living; their lives are essentially at a standstill. Their quarters consist of a 12 x 20 foot room where seven people eat and sleep.

Though I realize that the embassy staff has attempted to make the families comfortable I believe more must be done and I understand that at least with the changing in administration conditions have somewhat improved.

I understand that there are criticisms of this bill—that passing of the bill will encourage others to "storm" the embassy, that the Soviets will look disfavorably on the bill as an attempt by the American government to interfere in Soviet domestic affairs, and that how can we grant everyone who attempts to emigrate from the Soviet Union permanent residence status in the United States.

These contentions may be valid however I believe that they are outweighed by the following considerations:

The families did not set out to "storm" the embassy. The situation they encountered outside of the building forced them to act as they did. Others have attempted to gain entry into the embassy but have been unsuccessful.

The Soviet government has always looked upon even the mention of human rights or religious freedom by the American government as interference in their internal affairs. Over the years they have come to expect pressure from America in this area and in fact without that pressure 250,000 Jews would never have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union during the past ten years.

This is an extraordinary problem calling for extraordinary relief. Three years have gone by and the families remain. The new American Embassy is now under construction in Moscow. What will happen to these people once the new building is completed.

We are constantly concerned about what kind of signal we send to the Soviets through our action on the world scene. I believe this is the correct signal. Emmigration from the U.S.S.R. is at its lowest level in ten years. Arrests among religious activists are on the upswing, their children have been taken from them, they have been subjected to harrasment, searches, labor camps, prison and psychiatric hospitals.

Its imperative that we as Americans do not neglect these people. I urge the President that the issue of human rights and emmigration be on the table during all discussions with the Soviets whether these discussions involve trade or arms reduction and maybe then we won't have to worry about having people in the basement of our embassy in the future.

Senator **GRASSLEY**. You know something this serious, especially in light of the President's statement on European arms limitation, and we are going to go into initial talks on continuation of SALT negotiations, now called START.

It seems to me that we have been effective in the past in some negotiations with linkage, and I would think that human rights instances like this, or specific examples like this ought to be laid on the table by the President, especially in economic negotiations, so that the Jackson-Vanick legislation is not just kind of a hollow treaty.

I think we ought to urge the administration to try to put more on the table than just economic matters, and military matters, arms matters, but also we ought to include some of these things that America really stands for. If the economic situation is as bad in Russia as we have been led to believe it is, and they need some of the things we have, and they need to spend less on military than what they are, we might just be able to get some relief for people who have been discriminated against in Russia.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **SIMPSON**. Thank you very much, Senator Grassley.

We have a rollcall vote in just a very few minutes, so we will come to the conclusion of the hearing. I very much appreciate your testimony. Please recall that this is the first hearing we have held on this bill ever, so we will proceed with it.

My intention is to have an executive hearing or a closed hearing with State and Justice Department officials in order to review present immediate diplomatic approaches, and exit visa procedures, because I think from the testimony and from the expressions of this administration that there is indeed a more significant push to do something under the present administration.

I am going to personally visit with those in the executive branch, and the President who has spoken rather loud and strong and clear on this issue, and see where we are from the Executive level, above and beyond the State and Justice levels.

So making no flowing promises, the easiest thing to do in this business is to grab the microphone and get everybody all juiced up, and I will not do that to you, as you have had your hopes dashed before. But I think we can proceed and see if we can get closer to our goal than you might have thought a year ago, or 2 years ago.

I commend you, and on behalf of the fellow citizens, for your zeal in this cause, and your attention to it. Thank you so much for coming here to testify. We appreciate it.

With that, the hearing is concluded.

[Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned to reconvene at the call of the Chair.]

APPENDIX

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DR. ERNEST GORDON, PRESIDENT, CREED (CHRISTIAN RESCUE EFFORT FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF DISSIDENTS)

Mr. Chairman:

For the past three and a half years, the basement of the U. S. Embassy in Moscow has been the front line in the war between a free society and a collective one. In the case of the Siberian Seven, we have been seeing played out the conflict between a society that respects the individual's freedom of conscience, and a society which denies that basic freedom.

The Chmykhalov and the Vashchenko families, known as the Siberian Seven, have suffered harassment, persecution, and imprisonment because of their public witness to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Tired of continuous persecution in their own country, they decided to emigrate to a country where they could practice their faith freely. When Christians in this country learned about their hardships, they invited them to come to America. Reverend Cecil J. Williamson, Jr., of Selma, Alabama, issued the first invitation to the Vashchenkos, while Mrs. Gordon Lindsay of Dallas invited the Chmykhalovs.

However, their applications for permission to emigrate were denied. This clearly violates Articles 13 and 14 of the Declaration of Human Rights. In the hope that the intervention of the U. S. Embassy would enable the Vashchenkos to acquire the necessary exit visas, they decided to go to Moscow to present their case at our Embassy. The Chmykhalovs decided to join them although they had not received an invitation at that time. When the two families approached our

Embassy on June 27, 1978, a number of Soviet policemen denied them access. Despite the barriers formed against them the two families ran past the guards to the Embassy door where they were met and taken to the consular waiting room.
John, the teenaged son of the Vashchenkos, was caught by the police, beaten physically, later tortured, and then returned to Chernogorsk from which he and his family had just come. Such treatment of a minor is reprehensible.

I wish I could say that these families were treated with courtesy so characteristic of our people, but I cannot. The treatment afforded them was lacking in civility. Their lot would have been extremely hard had it not been for the help of fellow believers within the Embassy. These people cooked meals for the seven Russian citizens and brought them to their quarters.

It is to be noted that the Vashchenkos offered to leave the Embassy as soon as their son was brought to them. After two months the families were moved to a small room in the basement with two beds, a bathroom, and cooking facilities.

Although their living quarters have been improved, the families have suffered the effects of confinement, lack of exercise and work, and the continuous hardship of hope deferred. Like so many others who are denied privileges offered by a free society, they look to our country as the champion of personal freedom and the guardian of the oppressed.

I am extremely grateful to Senator Carl Levin for his courageous leadership in presenting this bill, S. 312, dealing with the relief of the seven Pentecostals, to the attention of this distinguished committee.

Throughout his years in office, he has been faithful in his commitment to the cause of human dignity and freedom. In doing so he is a true representative of his State, and of the tradition of this country; one which seeks to submit the policies of government to the scrutiny of God and His moral commands.

The Soviet Union has broken the laws of governments, the United Nations, and God repeatedly. The situation of the Siberian Seven is but one example of that. The reality of their situation is that they sought refuge in our Embassy; that they have lived on the equivalent of American soil for the past three-and-a-half years; that they cannot exist there indefinitely; that their country and its government has in fact scorned them for three-and-a-half years; that the Soviet Union would persecute them were they to leave our Embassy. Thus, it is the responsibility of our present government to find ways of aiding them such as those indicated in Senator Levin's bill.

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